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## OPINION METER

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**16**  
DAYS TO GO  
BEFORE  
*Christmas*

INSIDE



## Day of Infamy

In wheelchairs and on walkers, the old veterans came Wednesday to remember the day 70 years ago when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

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## Exclusive Interview

President Bashar Assad's first interview with a Western television journalist since a March uprising was a coup for Barbara Walters and ABC News.

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## AS OF 3RD QUARTER OF 2011

# CNMI gets least ARRA money among US states, territories

» **\$42M of \$119M awarded amount yet to be spent**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

A review of federal tracking agency recovery.gov data shows that the CNMI received the least amount—\$119 million—of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money among 50 U.S. states and five U.S. territories from Feb. 17, 2009 through Sept. 30, 2011.

U.S. territories receive much less in ARRA money than the 50 U.S. states whose ARRA awards range from over \$662 million in Wyoming to over \$34 billion in California.

And of the total \$119 million in ARRA money awarded to the CNMI so far, \$42 million or 35 percent has yet to be spent.

Recovery.gov updated its data for the CNMI on Nov. 30.

Most or over \$48 million of ARRA money awarded to the CNMI as of Sept. 30 went to education, followed by energy/environment at over \$38 million, transportation at over

**See ARRA on Page 4**

**‘Legitimate businesses just trying to survive’**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan said legitimate businesses are just trying to survive right now, though he said the business community gets slammed in the media as being an evil entity that does not want to increase the pay for their workers.

The CNMI's minimum wage is now \$5.05 an hour and is scheduled

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## ‘A FENCE THAT’S HURTING BUSINESSES’

An employee of 3K Corp., left, works yesterday at the site of the Saipan Leadership Memorial Kiosk project enclosed by a temporary 6-foot aluminum fence that totally hides from passersby and motorists three existing businesses across the post office in Chalan Kanoa. The owners of Severance Optical Service, VIP Massage, and Round Restaurant and Snack Bar said yesterday they have not received customers since the aluminum fence was put up on Wednesday because nobody could see their business signs and building. The businessman, Jou Daehyun, is seeking government help to prevent further harm on his business operations.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Sablan

## Kilili: Babauta's figures on Medicaid awards outdated

» **\$18.2M total Medicaid grant funds expected for CNMI this fiscal year**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan described as outdated and incorrect the figures presented Wednesday by Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta on the Medicaid program.

He said the \$5-million cap has already been removed by the federal government and the reimbursement ratio has been changed as well beginning this 2011.

The Medicaid program is a federal/state program administered by the states and funded by both the federal and states revenues through the 50-50 matching funds. Each year, federal cap is set at \$5 million which requires an

**See KILILI on Page 4**



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**LOLLIPOPS**

## Saipan casino bill referred to a different Senate committee

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

The House bill that seeks to legalize casino gambling on Saipan is now with the Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies, and not the Resources, Economic Development and Programs, which previously led a working partnership with Northern Marianas College students in conducting a casino survey.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), as chair of the Committee on Rules

and Procedures, assigned House Bill 17-240, House Draft 1 to FRIA which he also chairs.

When asked for comment yesterday, Hofschneider said the bill is "appropriately placed on committee level. Will advise accordingly if there is any significant information to report on the matter."

The casino bill was assigned to FRIA on Nov. 23.

With the bill assigned to a committee, it will be up to that panel to decide what to do with the casino legislation.

Options could include holding public hearings on it, recommending to the full Senate rejection or passage, or not reporting it out of committee level at all. As of yesterday, there's no telling what the FRIA Committee would do with the bill, introduced by Reps. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) and Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan).

Last year, the full Senate killed a similar bill that Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) introduced.

It would also be up to FRIA to interpret the results of the NMC Current Issues class's non-binding casino survey which only drew less than 7 percent of Saipan voters. There was only a nine-vote difference in favor of those opposed to casinos on Saipan.

HB 17-240 is the third Saipan casino legislation to be introduced and passed since last year. After Tenorio's bill was rejected by the Senate last year, Rep. Stanley Torres introduced a House local bill which Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed, saying it's unconstitutional.

The new Saipan casino bill requires a \$10-million casino license fee, and a non-refundable casino license application fee of \$250,000.



Hofschneider

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# Fitial admin touts fairness in across-the-board austerity

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Fitial administration is not about to expand its list of agencies exempt from austerity measures, almost two months since Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Oct. 13 memo that covered federally funded agencies and other previously exempt agencies in the 32-hour workweek.

Fitial is only allowing certain personnel from three government agencies to be exempt: the departments of Public Safety and Corrections and the Emergency Management Office.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said Wednesday that while it is true that certain salaries are fully federally funded, the governor "is more concerned about the issue of fairness and employee morale."

"Thus, Governor Fitial chose to implement the austerity work hour reduction across the board, with the exception of critical emergency response personnel like police officers, fire fighters, corrections officers, and others," Demapan said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan has repeatedly called on the governor to exempt federally funded employees in the Nutrition Assistance Program, which handles food stamp services.

Customs director Jesus Muna has also asked for exemption for customs inspectors, owing



Fitial

to the nature of their job at airports and seaports.

But the Fitial administration said in addition to fairness among government employees, "it is also important to note that the governor is the chief executive of the Commonwealth."

"Therefore, he holds the authority to regulate government work hours for CNMI government offices. Federal grantors have been made aware of the financial constraints of the government and the austerity work schedule for government

employees. At the end of the day, it's about equitability for both local and federally funded CNMI government employees," Demapan said.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), a former Ways and Means Committee chair, pointed out that the governor may be the final authority on all federally funded programs in the CNMI, including refusing to sign off

on grant proposals or closing federal-funded agencies, but the CNMI runs the risk of losing badly needed funding.

"What will jeopardize the federal funds? For example, if we're given a grant of \$100,000 and we spent only \$80,000, the \$20,000 will have to go back

to the federal grantor. The following year, when we again ask for a \$100,000 grant, they would say we didn't even use the full amount, why are we asking for that amount again? It would be interesting what the federal government would say about this," he said.

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## Probes clear Herman's Bakery in SIS incident

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Investigations conducted by the Public School System and the Bureau of Environmental Health cleared Herman's Modern Bakery of any fault in the recent incident at Saipan International School where about 30 students complained of stomach cramps and diarrhea.

SIS head master Dr. Dale Jenkins disclosed this to *Saipan Tribune* after meeting yesterday with officials of the food vendor and after talking with officials of PSS.

PSS and BEH's final report came after almost a week of inspection and review. Because of the result, the head master said the food vendor is allowed to resume delivering food to students starting today.

Jenkins earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that about 30 students, mostly upper graders, were absent from their classes due to symptoms which prompted SIS to seek PSS and the food vendor's assessment on the matter.

Public Health Services director Roxanne Diaz told *Saipan Tribune* that BEH came into the picture and conducted an investigation last Monday.

She said the agency also collaborated with the food vendor and the school and made the necessary checks including inspection of its cafeteria, equipment, and water supply.

Diaz said BEH last Wednesday cleared the food vendor in its initial assessment and had then began checking the water supply in the school's campus. Jenkins said yesterday that BEH made certain recommendations to the school which include, among others, maintaining a bacteria-free water dispenser which he described as a minor issue.

Jenkins admitted that despite the assessments and reviews conducted, "the main cause of the incident" has not been determined or established.

However, he said he is very satisfied with the outcome and this means that students will now be better protected. Jenkins described last week's incident as a valuable learning exercise for all parties concerned.

Herman's Bakery has been SIS' food vendor for two years and Jenkins earlier described its service to the school as excellent. He said all menus served to students are designed by PSS' dietician and in accordance with federal guidelines.

Last week's incident was the first time that a large number of students com-

plained of similar symptoms that started midnight of Wednesday. On Thursday, the school received calls from parents informing SIS about their children's absence due to stomach cramps and diarrhea. On the same morning, several students complained of the same symptoms and opted to lie down in school. Letters to all parents were also sent out to inform them about the incident.

Despite reports of discomfort by students, Jenkins said no one was seriously ill or taken to the hospital for treatment.

## KILILI

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equal amount from the CNMI government. Any expenses in excess of \$10 million is shouldered by the state.

Babauta said Wednesday that he wants this \$5 million cap removed and the reimbursement rate be changed to as low as 75-25 matching rate to help the CNMI government address the increasing number of clients under the Medicaid program, which yearly has only \$10 million (from federal and state) funds combined.

But according to Sablan, annual federal Medicaid grant to the CNMI is no longer capped at \$5 million as what Babauta believes.

"Rather than being eligible for just \$40 million for the eight years from 2011 to 2019, the Northern Marianas is now eligible for \$140 million during that same period. The additional \$100 million became fully available on July 1," Sablan told Babauta in his letter dated Dec. 7.

"[I'm] sincerely hoping that [the] CNMI will use the money wisely and will spread its drawdowns over the eight years so [the] CNMI will not run short of Medicaid funds at the end," he stated in the letter.

Sablan said in fact, the CNMI is expecting \$18.233 million in total Medicaid grants in FY 2012.

The congressman also informed the CEO the history behind the changes in federal grants under the said program.

He said it was in 2009 when U.S. Congress increased the Medicaid grant to the Commonwealth by 30 percent to \$6.474 million under the provision of Section 5001 of the American Recovery Reinvestment Act which, he said, was one of his first votes in Congress. Sablan told Babauta, a Republican, that every Republican voted against the said measure.

In 2010, the Medicaid grant was raised again through the section 1204 of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, commonly known as Obamacare. Under this law, additional \$100 million to the CNMI was provided from July 1, 2011 through Sept. 30, 2019.

He said as soon as this became law, the CNMI in fact, has quickly taken advantage of the new Obamacare money and drew down \$8.1 million in the first three months it was available.

"And the Commonwealth has submitted its budget for FY 2012, projecting that in addition to the base amount of \$5 million another \$12 million of the Obamacare Medicaid

funds will be used in the current year. On top of this \$17 million, the NMI is also eligible for \$861,000 from State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) and smaller amounts for information technology and administration. So the total federal Medicaid grant funds expected by the Commonwealth for FY 2012 is \$18.233 million," Sablan explained in his letter to Babauta.

Sablan also announced that the CNMI will also be eligible for another \$9.5 million between 2014 and 2019 by virtue of Obamacare and these funds may be added to the Medicaid grant to help low-income persons, or, if the Commonwealth chooses to establish a health insurance exchange, the \$9.5 million may be used to subsidize private health insurance premiums for the middle class.

On the reimbursement ratio of 50-50, Sablan said the federal-CNMI match for Medicaid grants has been changed to 55-45 ratio through section 2005 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The 45 percent share for the CNMI, he said, saves the Commonwealth \$7 million over the 2011 to 2019 period. Efforts to further lower the CNMI matching share, he said, will continue to be among his goals in Congress.

## LEGITIMATE

From Page 1

to increase by another 50 cents next year by federal law.

"I do understand there are many businesses out there that treat their employee poorly. Chances are these are the same businesses that underreport their earnings to avoid paying their fair share of taxes or simply operate under the 'radar' without a business license," Brennan said in his message to Chamber members and guests on Wednesday at a general membership meeting.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members.

He cited a recently released First Hawaiian Bank economic forecast for the CNMI. That report says weak tourism numbers further aggravated by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in March, coupled with increasing labor costs and rising fuel and shipping prices, have conspired to further weaken an already struggling CNMI economy.

Brennan, general manager at Microl Corp., also enumerated a "myriad of hurdles" facing the CNMI, including a decline in population which is the customer and workforce base, declines in tourism, and declines in tax revenue to the CNMI government.

These, he said, are exacerbated by increase in utility rates, fuel costs, shipping costs, labor costs, and the overall

cost of living.

"Finding solutions won't be easy," he said, citing the business community's cost-cutting measures over the past several years that include reducing business hours, laying off employees and in many cases closing down the business entirely because it is no longer profitable.

Brennan reiterated the need to work together to make the CNMI a "business friendly" environment.

"For years, the Chamber has offered commentary and suggestions to the government. More often than not, those words have fallen on deaf ears. I do applaud Governor Fitial's efforts in trying to bring renewable energy resources to the CNMI. That is a start, but we need to bring those efforts and other efforts to fruition," he said.

He touted the Chamber's increased involvement, including what it did with the conduct this year of a prevailing wage study that was never done before.

Lastly, Brennan listed items that a business person would consider about a potential location to invest in, including reliable power, water and wastewater services; streamlined processing of investor papers; favorable tax structure; adequate customer base; adequate and educated workforce; fair and equitable enforcement of laws; fee simple ownership of property; clean environment; convenient air service; and reasonable shipping rates.

## ARRA

From Page 1

\$15 million, over \$3 million for infrastructure.

The rest went to family, public safety, science, housing, job training and health programs and services in the CNMI, whose government budget for fiscal year 2012, for example, is only \$102 million.

### Other territories

American Samoa has so far been awarded over \$208 million in ARRA money, followed by Guam with over \$285 million, the U.S. Virgin Islands with over \$289 million, and Puerto Rico with over \$2.65 billion.

But while the CNMI's \$42 million of yet-to-be-spent amount is a lot of money, it fares better than three U.S. territories when it comes to the percentage of ARRA-awarded money spent so far.

Guam, for example, has yet to spend 40 percent of ARRA money awarded to it, compared to the CNMI's only 35 percent.

American Samoa also has yet to spend 71 percent of ARRA money awarded to it, while the U.S. Virgin Islands has yet to spend 48 percent.

Puerto Rico has the least amount of awarded ARRA money that has yet to be spent—at 27 percent.

Three other non-state and non-territorial areas but are affiliated with the United

States also received ARRA money.

They include Palau which was awarded over \$2 million in ARRA money, of which \$790,451 has yet to be spent. The Marshall Islands was also awarded over \$1.4 million, but has yet to spend over \$1.3 million of that amount. The Federated States of Micronesia was also awarded \$444,656, but has yet to spend \$100,405 of that amount.

### CNMI projects

In the CNMI, ARRA money has been used to keep teachers in public schools, buy and install energy-efficient lights and air-conditioning units, upgrade power and water equipment, and improve generally all public services from education to health and safety.

Of 59 ARRA-funded projects in the CNMI, 15 were completed, 24 were more than 50 percent completed, 17 were less than 50 percent completed, and three not started yet.

From July to September 2011, ARRA created or preserved 442 jobs in the CNMI, mostly in the Public School System.

Fred Camacho, communications/compliance director for Integrated Professional Solutions LLC, said yesterday it is important to keep in mind that the over \$119 million in ARRA funds awarded represent amounts awarded to the central government directly and those applied for and received by autonomous agencies.

He cited as examples of significant au-

tonomous agency awards the \$8 million awarded to IT&E and some \$28 million to Sandy Beach Homes Project.

The CNMI central government received approximately \$88 million in direct awards to various agencies, he said.

"As of this past reporting period, the central government has expended approximately \$61 million or 69 percent of these funds. This figure is expected to rise again in the 4th quarter reporting period starting in January as the SFSF grant and grants from DCCA are slated to be closed out," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

SFSF stands for State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, while DCCA stands for Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

He said as for the autonomous agency awards, IPS has no direct control over those funds and cannot comment on their expenditures.

IPS bagged a 392,406 sole-source contract from the Fitial administration in October 2010 to manage CNMI ARRA services. The IPS contract will end in April 2012.

Camacho said they do not expect to receive any further ARRA funds beyond the respective close-out dates for each grant.

"Currently, the only grant that runs through 2013 is the Division of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant," he said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan

(Ind-MP) has been critical of the delayed spending of ARRA money already awarded to the CNMI. He had said that the money still to be spent will help the CNMI weather the recession and keep people employed for several more years.

The most recent ARRA-funded contract awarded, posted on the CNMI ARRA Office website, are still those awarded to AMX International for \$43,230 for a CNMI government financial management system upgrade.

### Central government

Based on the CNMI ARRA website data, the CNMI central government has been awarded over \$88 million in ARRA money as of the third quarter 2011 or from July to September this year.

Of this amount, \$61 million or 69 percent has been spent. It has yet to spend \$27 million or 31 percent.

ARRA money awarded directly to the CNMI central government is divided among 11 agencies.

Of the total \$88 million awarded to the central government, over \$44 million went to the Office of the Governor; over \$29 million to the Division of Energy; \$4.5 million to the Department of Public Works; over \$2.7 to DCCA; and over \$1.8 million to the Criminal Justice Planning Agency.

Over \$1.39 million was awarded to the Division of Environmental Quality; over \$1.3 million to the Workforce Investment Agency; over \$1.2 million

to the Department of Commerce; over \$1.08 million to the Department of Public Health; \$519,048 to the Department of Public Safety; and \$270,196 to the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

### Autonomous agencies, non-profit groups

The CNMI ARRA website also shows a total of almost \$14.5 million awarded to five autonomous agencies.

These include \$5 million to the Commonwealth Ports Authority; over \$3.3 million to the Public School System; over \$3.2 million to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.; over \$1.9 million to the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.; and \$914,493 to the Northern Marianas College.

Non-profit organizations in the CNMI also received a total of \$228,675 in ARRA money.

These include the Center for Living Independently with \$106,200; the Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence with \$78,125; and Karidat with \$44,350.

The ARRA law, signed by President Barack Obama in 2009, seeks to create and save jobs; spur economic activity and invest in long-term growth by providing \$288 billion in tax cuts and benefits, \$224 billion to increase funding for entitlement programs and \$275 in contract, grant, and loan awards; and foster unprecedented levels of accountability and transparency in ARRA money spending.



## IN LAWSUIT VS OWNER OF CLOTHING STORE THAT BURNED

# Judge Manglona finds issues for jury to resolve

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORT

The federal court yesterday issued a ruling favorable to an insurance company that sued the owner of a clothing store in Garapan over the alleged intentional burning of the store last year.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied Zhen Rui Brother Corp.'s motion for summary judgment.

Manglona ruled that plaintiff FirstNet Insurance Co. has presented more than sufficient evidence to establish a dispute over liability for the jury to resolve at trial.

The judge said it is undisputed that Zhen Rui Brother Corp.'s BL Clothing Store suffered substantial fire loss only a few months after the company took out the insurance policy.

Manglona said firefighters had to break open the doors of the building to gain access and only the store's owner, Zheng Biao, and an employee had keys.

On the damages issue, Manglona said if Zhen Rui prevails at trial on liability, the amount of damages remains in dispute.

The judge said the insurance policy covered Zhen Rui's in-

ventory and equipment.

She said losses of inventory and equipment are losses of personal property.

Manglona said Zhen Rui is not seeking to recover lost profits, it is claiming loss of inventory and other tangibles that are clearly personal property.

"Zhen Rui has cited to no authority that would support a finding that the items whose value it seeks to recover are not personal property," Manglona said.

The judge said because the value of the insurance policy is not a liquidated demand with respect to the personal property Zhen Rui claims it lost in the fire, damages remain in dispute.

On Oct. 30, 2010, a fire broke out at the BL Clothing Store.

In March 2011, the fire policy insurer, FirstNet sued Zhen Rui Brother Corp., for allegedly deliberately setting off the fire so that the owner could claim \$404,718.53 in insurance proceeds.

Zhen Rui Brother Corp later filed a counterclaim against FirstNet, alleging breach of contract, breach of implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, insurance bad faith, and unfair or deceptive business practices.

Zhen Rui, through counsel Ramon Quichocho, filed a motion for summary judgment. The company made two arguments.

As to liability, Quichocho argued that FirstNet has failed to establish that Zhen Rui caused the fire.

As to damages, Quichocho

claimed that Zhen Rui suffered a "total loss" and that under the CNMI's valued policy statute, it is entitled to the full value of the insurance policy as a liquidated demand for the total loss.

Quichocho asserted that under CNMI law there is no dispute as to the amount of damages.

FirstNet, through counsel Richard W. Pierce, argued that the insurance company is not liable to pay on the policy if the fire was caused by arson, and direct evidence points to arson and ample circumstantial evidence indicates that Zhen Rui willfully caused the fire.

As to damages, Pierce asserted that the CNMI valued-policy statute excludes loss of personal property which is the

type of loss Zhen Rui claims, and that Zhen Rui's insurance policy with FirstNet is not a valued policy.

In denying the motion, Manglona ruled that there is no need to determine whether the insurance policy is not a valued policy.

"Even if it were a valued policy, the lost property claimed by Zhen Rui would be excluded by operation of CNMI law," Manglona said.

## 4th defendant in driver's license scam gets 30-day jail term

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday slapped a one-month jail term against one of the five defendants in the driver's license scam case.

Manglona gave defendant Hongmei Sun credit for the one day that she already served in jail.

After serving the remaining 29 days in jail, the 40-year-old Sun will be placed on

supervised release. She was also required to pay a \$100 court assessment fee and perform 100 hours of community work service.

Manglona said imposing a jail sentence on Sun is appropriate to promote respect of the law and deter others as well from committing the same crime.

The judge noted that Sun admitted for her involvement in dealing with eight individuals for them to obtain a driver's license un-

lawfully.

Manglona said with the defendant's actions, she was putting harm or potential harm to the community.

"The potential harm to the community is very real," said.

Manglona said although she sympathizes with Sun's financial condition, harsh condition is not an excuse to commit a crime.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

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## EXPORT EXPERT SAYS:

## Local companies should find 'path of least resistance'



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By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Small companies in the CNMI can venture out in the export business and become successful if they find "the path of least resistance" and "quality people to do business with," according to John Holman.

Holman, director for the Pacific Islands Hawaii Export Assistance Center, was on Saipan to conduct a presentation on exporting opportunities, strategies, and availability of financial resources at the American Memorial Park last Wednesday.

In an interview, Holman explained that finding "the path

of least resistance" means identifying which international market a local company can get into "in the shortest amount of time, with the least amount of cost and effort, and generate the greatest return."

This process, he said, can be carried out by doing a market research to develop an "international strategy," taking into consideration the right market where people would want the product or service your company offers, "then pursuing that path."

Holman said finding quality people to do business with—whether customers, distributors, or partners in the chosen international market—is also key.

He said getting started in the export industry is "absolutely not" a monumental task, noting that some local companies are already into the low cost export business by selling their products to tourists. "That's a bit of an indirect export where you're not shipping it but you can market to them."

Holman said having a "web presence" or making the product or service available online through e-commerce will also bring in more potential to the business, allowing the company to sell directly to consumers. He said this would be most effective if the company's website is available in the chosen market's language.

"It generates revenue then they can invest by going to the market and then maybe finding partners directly to grow their business," he added.

Holman noted that Honolulu faces similar challenges with the CNMI in that it is burdened by high shipping and freight costs.

"The key is to focus on high-end markets—countries where people have a lot of high disposable income and they're willing to pay a premium for products because we know the shipping costs are going to be high," said Holman. These markets include Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

Leveraging the CNMI's brand of being a clean and beautiful tropical island will also boost marketing efforts, he said.

Giving an added value to an agricultural product or consumer goods and "putting a island spin to it" can also be the way to go, said Holman.

Another way of getting into the export business is to tap on

U.S. mainland companies that don't have a global presence and represent their products to international markets.

"We know that only 1 percent of U.S. companies export internationally,"

Holman told *Saipan Tribune*. "Only 1 percent. A lot of them, they're just focused on the domestic market. It's a big market but they're not looking at international opportunities."

Holman also pointed out that growing service providers such as real estate, financial services or architectural and engineering consulting in the international market is "relatively easy." "You don't have the same challenges of bringing in raw materials and shipping out finished goods."

Whatever product or service that local companies plan to export to international markets, Holman emphasized that financing options are available at the Small Business Administration and the Small Business Development Center.

Among these is SBA's State Trade and Export Promotion or the STEP Program designed to help increase the number of small businesses that are exporting and to raise the value of exports for those small businesses that are currently exporting so they can grow and create jobs.

"The CNMI is going to get over \$1 million of that, which is more than almost all the rest of the States in the country to do export promotion," said Holman.

Holman said about \$700,000 of the amount is going to be for tourist promotion in key markets. "But that's alright because there's plenty money for other companies to take advantage of it as well."

For more information about the STEP program, visit the CNMI SBDC office in Capitol Hill or call 664-3018.



Holman

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# MHS seniors receive tips for college

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Various tips and information in preparation for college were presented to Marianas High School seniors during the Start Smart seminar conducted by the Northern Marianas College in collaboration with the CNMI Public School System Wednesday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

NMC office of institutional advancement director Frankie Illiptico said 250 seniors from the oldest public high school in the CNMI attended the event.

Prior to Wednesday's seminar, the college also conducted the same activity for nearly 300 seniors from Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School, while 80 junior and senior students attended the same session at Tinian Jr./Sr. High School last week. Another Start Smart seminar is slated for Rota High School senior later this month.

Illiptico said the event, which is made possible by the College Access Challenge Grant of NMC, aims to expose graduating students to the different options they can take after their graduation, whether they choose NMC or other college and universities outside the CNMI.

This year marked NMC's third annual Start Smart semi-

nar and Illiptico said based on enrollment the past two years, the event helps boost enrollment at the college. Besides topics about how to start for college, participants were also exposed to available financial aids and scholarship programs.

The Start Smart seminar was graced by a handful of presenters who shared their education and job experiences, advices, tips, and challenges during their college years.

Among them was Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), who happily shared with participants the importance of getting a degree and the great benefit it could bring to their lives.

He encouraged and motivated students to make better preparation for their college. He advised students not to

let any distraction come into their plans and stay focus on their goals to achieve what they desire.

For Jurysa DL. Guerrero, 17, the event served as an eye-opener to all graduating students. Beyond filling up college application form, she believes that students have to consider other factors before making a decision for college. Guerrero plans of joining the U.S. Air Force after high school and later pursue college.

Kyanna Tenorio, 17, said she was inspired and motivated by the stories she heard from presenters. She now plans of pursuing an elementary education or business degree at NMC so she could later serve the community.

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# Swan Lake Ballet this weekend

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts is set to make the holidays more impressive with the staging of Swan Lake Ballet & Concert of the Ballet Stars 2011.

The show, which features ballet dancers from Saratov State Ballet Theater in Russia, Seoul Universal Ballet Academy in Korea, and Glushko's Academy dancers, is scheduled tonight and tomorrow night at the American Memorial Park Open Amphitheater at 7pm to 9pm.

Lim Hye Kyung, Seoul Universal Ballet Academy director, said she and young ballet dancers Ahn Joo Won and Ki Su Ji arrived yesterday morning for the show. While this is the first time for the young ballet dancers to be on Saipan, this would be Lim's second time.

"I feel very relaxed. I remember the audience last year was very warm and happy," Lim said.

According to Lim, it's always good to perform on Saipan and give good energy to the audience through their art. "Art makes life beautiful. That's the purpose of art. This is also a good opportunity to educate our academy students," she added.

Natalia Kolosova and Daniil Kurynov, meanwhile, will be representing the Saratov State Ballet Theater. "It's my first time and I love everything here," said Kolosova through Glushko's Academy's Anna Glushko.

Kurynov, who will be performing on Saipan for the third time, said, "We will see the best tradition of classical ballet and Rus-



From left, Ahn Joo Won, Ki Su Ji, Natalia Kolosova, and Daniil Kurynov pose for reporters during a news briefing yesterday. The four international ballet stars are featured in the *Swan Lake Ballet & Concert of the Ballet Stars 2011* tonight and tomorrow night at the American Memorial Park Open Amphitheater.

sian soul expressed in ballet."

Glushko, for her part, said they have a "strong team" for this year's production as they represent the best in their ballet companies.

"The show, it's never getting any easier and it's always full of challenges but we're excited," Glushko told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Glushko, they will also feature some 45 students of the Glushko's Academy, whom she described as "getting better and better each time."

Glushko said ticket sales have been good

so far and they are getting a lot of positive feedback from students, parents, sponsors and donors.

She invited the community to buy tickets to watch the show, which cost only \$15 for adults and \$10 for children below 12 years old. Tickets are available at Shell gas stations, Gourmet Restaurant and Shenanigans in Garapan, 360 Revolving Restaurant and Manic Inn in Susupe, and Kevin's Department Store in Chalan Kanoa.

"It's going to be the best performance because they will see the best of Korean and Russian dancers," added Glushko.

## Rotary welcomes visitors from Rotary Japan

Top officials of the Rotary International District 2750 for 2011-2012 were on island Wednesday as part of a Pacific-wide visit to various Rotary Clubs.

District governor Akio Katakura, assistant district governor Cindy Siren Mori, and district secretary Satoshi Kubo arrived yesterday morning and left last night.

The three attended the Rotary Club of Saipan general membership meeting, which is regularly scheduled every Tuesday but was moved to yesterday to accommodate the visiting officials.

"We go around the district and visit all the clubs this time of the year," Mori said.

In an interview after the meeting, Kubo said they were in Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Guam before their visit to Saipan. They are then headed to Palau before going back to Japan. "That's five islands in eight days," he said.

Kubo described the Rotary Club of Saipan as "very impressive."

Their overall visit to various Rotary Clubs included in the district were "very nice" and "very enlightening," said Kubo.

Kubo served as an interpreter for Katakura who said in his brief remarks that he is very pleased to be on Saipan and feels the "very special relationship" between Japan and Saipan.

Katakura, who donated \$100 to the Rotary's "smile box," aims to look at ways to promote "a stronger relationship" between the Rotary Club of Saipan and Rotary International District 2750.

The visiting officials presented a flag to Rotary Club of Saipan president Pete Igitol. In return, each of the three received a copy of the *Christmas in the Marianas* CD. (Clarissa V. David)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 9, 2002

### APIL backs funding for charitable cargo

The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures adopted Friday a resolution requesting its member entities to earmark a portion of their annual budgets to fund the costs of transporting humanitarian cargo to Pacific areas in need. This came following a request from the Ayuda Foundation, the organization that provides humanitarian aid to Micronesia through medical missions and urgent relief efforts. Carlotta A. Leon-Guerrero, the foundation's executive director, said that shipping cost was one of the stumbling blocks in their efforts to ensure the continuous traffic of medicine, medical equipment and health services to island recipients.

### CHC doctors to see patients on Rota and Tinian

The Department of Public Health will send its medical specialists to Rota and Tinian on a regular basis to lessen the travel costs for referral patients. This comes soon after findings showed that this year alone, 1,450 patients were flown from Rota and Tinian to seek treatment at the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan. "I asked CHC specialists and our different departments to schedule their [doctors] trips to Rota and Tinian," DPH Secretary James U. Hofschneider said. Relatedly, records showed that, of the 2,515 medical referral patients since 1999, majority of patients-1,321-were sent to Guam.

Dec. 9, 2003

### Over \$1.2M in mitigation projects OK'd

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that it has approved the release of mitigation grants totaling \$1.255 million for Guam for projects following recent typhoons. "These nine projects encompass a wide variety of efforts to make Guam most disaster-resistant," said FEMA Region IX Director Jeff Griffin. "FEMA considers these mitigation grants a cornerstone of its mission to prevent future damage from the typhoons and earthquake that regularly visit this beautiful Pacific island." Guam was struck last year by two typhoons that caused more than \$278 million in damage to the island. Loss of electrical power and shattered buildings across much of the island jeopardized lives, destroyed homes and important facilities. The typhoons created serious losses for many businesses in the area.

### 'Teaching adults saves on educational costs'

Giving emphasis on adult education will result in "large inter-generational payoff" and significant savings for the government, according to visiting international consultant Thomas Sticht. "It's what I call 'double duty dollars' because every dollar you spend on adult education, say a mother, will double or more than double in value because she will certainly educate her children," said Sticht, a widely-recognized educational consultant, researcher, author, and professor. Sticht is currently holding a two-day workshop for teachers at the Pacific Islands Club. It is sponsored by the Northern Marianas College-Adult Basic Education.

Dec. 9, 2004

### Labor fines firm for negligent administration

The Department of Labor has fined a garment factory for allowing a nonresident employee to continue working without renewing his contract or permit for three months. Hearing officer Jerry Cody ordered Rifu Apparel Corp. to pay \$250 within 10 days. He said the Division of Labor will resume processing the application submitted by the company for worker Yang Jisheng provided that the company complies with the order. Rifu Apparel filed the renewal application for Yang on March 3, 2004, three months after the maintenance worker's permit expired. The Division of Labor denied the application on grounds of untimely filing and the company appealed.

### AmeriCorps funding for 2005 remains uncertain

The AmeriCorps program, which has successfully implemented a tutoring program here in the CNMI, may be in jeopardy as funds available for the program will last only up to March of next year. AmeriCorps coordinator John Guerrero said yesterday that, unless new funding comes in, the program may be discontinued. "This is a very successful program, according to testimonies from parents, the community, and site coordinators, but I hope President Bush would endorse it so that it may continue," Guerrero said. "We're still waiting for word from the federal government." He declined to provide more details on the financial status of the program.

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**IN ALLEGED BEATING OF 70-YEAR-OLD MAN****Court thumbs down suspect's property bond and third party custodian request**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Joseph James Norita Camacho denied a request to post a property bond and be released to his wife made by one of three suspects who allegedly beat up and fractured the left jaw of a 70-year-old man in Dandan.

At a bail modification hearing on Wednesday afternoon, Camacho determined after questioning in Chamorro that Nora Norita, the wife of defendant Juan Norita Jr., is not suitable to serve as third party custodian for her husband.

Mrs. Nora Norita testified that the 48-year-old Juan Norita is the head of the house and that she listens to him.

Camacho determined that Mrs. Norita will not be able to control Juan Norita if he is released into her custody.

At the start of the hearing, the judge informed assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll and the defendant's counsel, assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg, that he is a distant relative of Juan Norita.

Camacho, however, advised the lawyers as to the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct 2.11

that pertains to definition of third degree of relationship.

The ABA Rule 2.11 states that third degree of relationship includes the following persons: greatgrandparent, grandparent, parent, uncle, aunt, brother, sister, child, grandchild, greatgrandchild, nephew, and niece.

Camacho's relationship with the defendant does not belong to third degree of relationship's category.



Camacho

Both the prosecution and the defense counsel did not object to Camacho presiding over the bail modification hearing.

Petersburg requested the court to allow defendant's release into the custody of a third-party custodian and upon signing an appearance bond in the amount of \$16,250 secured by property consisting of 907 square meters of land.

In opposing the bail modification, Driscoll noted that with his actions in the case, Juan Norita has demonstrated a blatant disregard of CNMI laws and for the safety of citizens in

the Commonwealth.

"The defendant stands accused of acts that were wholly unprovoked and exceptionally violent, particularly considering the advanced age of victim (Pantaleon P. De Jillas)," Driscoll said.

The prosecutor said the damage caused by this assault and battery will potentially require continued medical attention and/or surgery to correct.

Driscoll said Pantaleon De Jillas had just been involved in an auto-pedestrian accident, and had stopped to render aid to the girl that was struck by his truck when Juan Norita and his son, Jerome Kaipat Norita, 23, and another man, beat him up.

The alleged beating happened along Flame Tree Road in Dandan in the morning of Dec. 2, shortly after Pantaleon De Jillas accidentally struck the girl with his truck. The girl was injured.

Pantaleon De Jillas' son, Ernie Matagolai De Jillas, was also treated by paramedics after Juan Norita also allegedly smacked his right ear with a piece of hollow block.

As of yesterday, it was not clear yet whether the third suspect, Fred Kaipat, was already arrested.

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

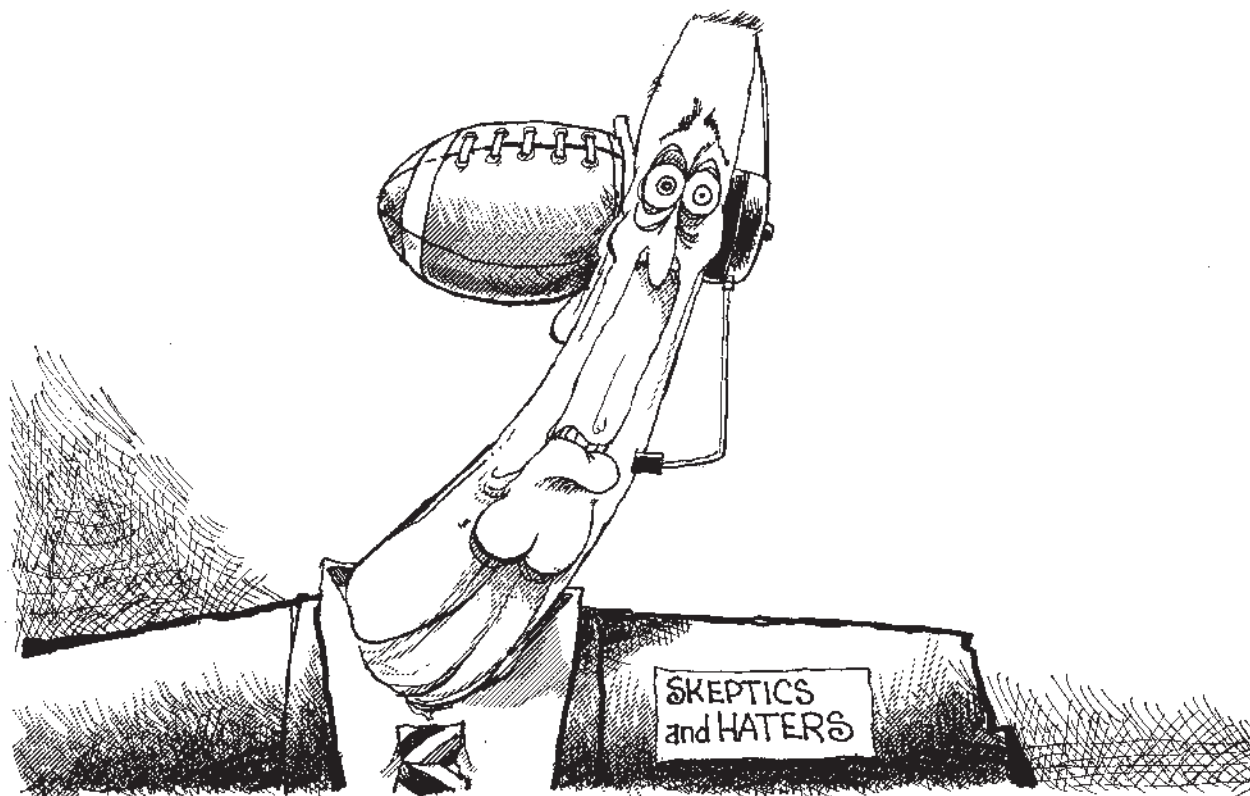
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TEBOW GOES FOR THE CONVERSION ..... AND IT'S GOOD !!

## What does Santa say about you?

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at [TropicalEd.com](http://TropicalEd.com). Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



I started the holidays in the travel mode, which has run me through a vast spectrum of the human condition. Here's an observation for the season: I think that Christmas is a sort of Rorschach ink blot test. The way people react to it reveals their inner workings. It's not everything to everybody, but it is something to everybody.

For example, the holiday, and all that goes with it, seems to add cheer to people who are usually cheerful to begin with. On that note, for all its political contentions, I regard Saipan as a fundamentally happy place, where holidays are usually well-received. As for Christmas, it has a lot of charm done island-style.

On the other hand, if someone is not happy to begin with, or just wants to be critical, or is a curmudgeon looking for something to get cranky about, then Christmas, or any other holiday, can certainly deliver.

Indeed, cynicism, like letters on a page, gets the most attention when it stands in contrast to the background. Sour notes sing loudest when they're poking through harmony. Sour singers use it to get attention.

I don't know if cynicism is more common now than before. Maybe it's just more acceptable. Or maybe my travels just exposed me to more of it this year. Sometimes, fresh surroundings make me more aware of the general discourse because, paradoxically, it seems so distant and institutional.

Which is fine with me, since I don't have much discourse of my own to offer this season. As you might know, I think next year is going to be a very lively news year. Saipan feeds off an economy that is dying from too much debt, and our proximate waters are at a slow boil for military tension. We've got serious stuff to address next year. Stuff that makes me reach for the Tums.

So I want to milk the remainder of this year for all the quiet I can get. Yes, I'd like 2011 to be a pleasant year, so I want to end it as such.

The tally for 2012 will be a total wild card, even if you think you're on solid financial ground. In fact, some of that ground will prove to be quicksand, since so many people have underestimated some types of financial risk. There's nothing sinister about this, it's just the nature of how markets don't turn on a dime but instead slowly slosh around like giant glaciers of gelatin.

As for the quiet, well, I'm enjoying it. My wife and I are pretty much stretching the holidays all the way from Thanksgiving to Christmas. That's a big slice of the calendar. And it's been fun because it's a solid chunk of time we can dedicate to goofing off.

So what a change of tempo it is to contemplate the holidays as I enjoy them, instead of having to crunch numbers and facts and responsibilities as a matter of habit, or of work.

For example, I spent a good chunk of yesterday at a random, small airport. I strolled around the tarmac looking at little propeller airplanes and a couple of small jets. Then I drank coffee and swapped flying stories with pilots in a warm, snug flight school lobby as a cold wind whistled outside.

It seems like just yesterday that I was one of the young guys on the lobby couch. Back in the day, I had a couple of air tour passen-

See SANTA on Next Page

## Whispers of an old man winter

My younger brother loves to take photos. He travels a lot, hitting the portable yurts of the Mongolian steppes and the twilight spas of Isla de Pascua this year. Then he sends copies of his work to a coterie of friends, easily done these days with the Internet's digitized low-resolution samples.

In his earlier days when blood of Iberian Don Alejos osmosized through his arteries, and flowed freely through his veins, his SLR was tele-equipped with the latest gadgetry from Nikon's upscale lenses. He would sneak in a photo of a mademoiselle, hardly a lassie in distress, possibly from Montreal, languishing in the warm waters of the Caribbean *au naturel*, all nicely crafted like a tourist postcard ready for mailing. We looked forward to his snail mail then.

Alas, the years are showing its toll. Brother now shoots *moai* on the *ahu* of Easter Island in fabulous sunsets but neglects the Rapa Nui in their wild fireside dances. But then, the native sunder Chilean rule might have turned more Iberian than islander, or Dutrou-Bornier did in the island for good!

Like a Russian recipient's appreciation of his photos in Mongolia, we're likewise stuck in the wintry winds of the Manchurian plains in Dong Bei and I am beginning to long for the polluted waters of Micro Beach and the algae infested lagoon of Saipan. One of our last sights of the Kilili Beach *pala-pala* were girls practicing to entertain tourists from Russia, China, Korea and Japan, in island-garbed affectations that no self-respecting Tahitian would wear, ungracefully shaking their booties as if the Alohaland missionaries are no longer on watch.

We are evidently in a daydreaming mode. The reality is that we hie indoors when water involuntarily wells out of the tear ducts and freezes on the chin after creeping through the cheeks. T's cold, and that was the state of affairs when I went downtown Friday to the post office by the north rail station to retrieve a package of *National Geographic* maps, a Fromm book and a CD that a colleague sent to assist trainee pilots get oral ChEnglish before flying school in the US of A.

It was while we were on the hour-and-a-half bus ride that we began thinking of old man winter in China. Press accounts of the economic miracle in the last decade since China joined WTO is a façade that bodes well when keeping face, a national pastime. But behind the glitter of the Beijing Olympics and the Shanghai Expo, the Guangzhou Asian Games and the Shenzhen Universiade, and the smiling volunteers ever ready to assist foreigners, guests, and patrons, are unheated college dorms where residents carry thermos bottles around daily to be filled with hot water for their tea and morning ablutions. Showers for a few renminbis are a weekly ritual in central communal bathrooms.

We were a tad late to miss the rush hour of office workers and shopkeepers in the bus so we stood through the first leg of the trip into town until we lucked into a vacated seat halfway. We were at a

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



quandary whether to offer the seat to an elderly woman, or a young mother loaded with a child and luggage. The elder said, "You need the seat more than I do, *lao ye ye*," using the endearing word for grandpa, translated to us by a Jewish bilingual who was on the bus. That's when we realized we are, too, an old man of winter.

Chivalry insisted that we next offer the seat to the mother with child, but our knuckles and knees made it clear they needed kneading, and that we no longer had the youthful stamina to be on our feet the rest of the way in the unheated bus. We kept our mitts and muffs on and wore our cap with the earflaps, dabbed oil unto the lip, and took comfort in the human heat of forced intimacy.

Or so I thought but before despair set in, we passed through a corner with some 30 winter-wrapped workers advertising their skills and their phone numbers in placards for those interested in engaging their services. These were manual day laborers, looking only a decade younger than I am, willing to dirty their hands in construction sites, or be hired hands for cleaning and maintaining buildings. There were three similar corners before we reached our destination.

These uncomplaining men and women braved the cold just so they might earn enough to buy *mien chow* (noodles) and *jiao zi* (dumplings) for the home wok, under billboards advertising the latest Mercedes Benz. The contradiction of the 85 percent fighting for the scraps under the table of the 15 percent who ride on heated Range Rovers abides even in a country that has become the number one market destination of Ferraris and Maseratis. Mao's proletariat don't seem to mind, but for this observer, double the pain when the cheap products once ordered in the last decade by the developed world's market is turned around to populate the local store shelves at inflated prices more expensive than their previous WalMart destinations.

That's when it hit me. These folks are working for themselves; "their selves" are getting expressed. The heretofore group face is taking on individual personae. Commerce and consumption may be flesh on the bones, but who was I to deprive them the freedom to make choices even if I know it in my bones to be a grievous mistake?

Old man winter in China is fine, even behind the façade. This other old one is adapting to his new lease on life.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

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**‘Some degree of blood’**

A new legislative initiative proposes to shift landownership qualification to the courts where one must prove “some degree of blood.” What’s the likely consequence of this proposal when it is effectively transferred to the courts?

Firstly, it should be understood that had legislators sufficiently researched their materials on DNA they would have discovered that while the procedure could identify the make-up of a person, it isn’t equipped to identify one’s race or ethnicity. Neither is it equipped with the technological wherewithal to determine what percentage of your blood is Chamorro, Carolinian, Pinoy, Irish, Russian, etc. Thus comes major fallacy No. 1!

This makes the proposal fodder for comedy material that David Letterman and Jay Leno could use on their late-night monologue. Why can’t this be premised on genealogy and U.S. citizenship? Are advocates of indigenous landownership aware that the same constitutional provision provided a political definition of NMD that qualified non-indigenous people? So what’s your point? How about growing up?

Obviously, the NMI Constitution is a descendant of the U.S. Constitution where the right to own property falls under what’s known as immutable “natural” rights. It’s a right that can’t be infringed nor violated. When do we begin to come to terms with the natural rights of citizens being quite different and apart from civil rights? Believe me, the two rights aren’t synonymous. Natural rights aren’t societal grants or those issued by the government. We are born with it!

Stunningly humiliating to know that those who peddle Article 12, calling it “protection,” do not understand that the CNMI isn’t a collectivist society. Are you saying it’s perfectly fine to replace over 400 years of individual landownership so that everybody becomes part-owner of privately owned land today?

Why can’t you be honest that what you’re peddling is political dictation so full private landownership remains dangling? Since when is ownership partly owned? Isn’t this a violation of the principle of ownership? What’s the net effect of such form of ownership in terms of family economics? Does it hurt you to see landowners take full control of disposition of their land? Is it because it removes your receiving commissions from people you could ably “tell what to do and what’s good for them?”

Obviously, elitist and exhausted politicians wish to hold on to power and would capitalize upon the emotions of the ill-informed to stay in office. They have to use dishonest rhetoric or demagoguery, hoping to continue telling us what to do or what’s good for us. But let’s put them through a test by asking: Is the deepening economic disaster—the trophy of disastrous economic hardship—the gift you’ve wrapped for governance this Christmas? Is this “experienced” leadership caught sleeping on the job? Nothing can be further from the truth!

■ ■ ■

**Loss of competitive edge**

It is said that help often comes to those who help themselves. Have we honestly helped ourselves by doing things right? Or is the answer a highly suspect affirmative? Indeed, it’s difficult trying to fix a broken million pieces puzzle right in the middle of a chaotic economy lurching toward total bankruptcy.

Over the last three decades, we lost a fundamental provision that helps the CNMI in its economy, specifically control over immigration and minimum wage. This setback turned into a pile of more difficulties when the World Trade Organization removed quotas on manufactured products from Asian countries.

This took the wind out of the CNMI’s competitive edge, i.e., export of finished garment products into the U.S. in unlimited quantities, duty free. Not only did it knock out apparel manufacturing, but paralyzed all forms of future manufacturing. Was this the vision of the U.S. Congress, the total destruction of the local economy? Why wasn’t more discretion exercised to ensure new statutory and regulatory impositions didn’t sink the local economy as drastically as it did?

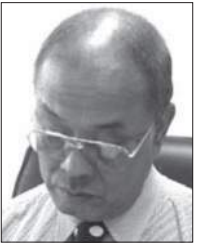
Understandably, immigration is solely the purview of the U.S. Congress. But there’s also the view that Uncle Sam was too paternalistic and quick in his disposition of this issue. It drained the local economy of some healthy revenues from the apparel industry that once generated some \$1.2 billion annually.

It also depleted the local economy of foreign capital or investments of some \$3 billion to \$5 billion, triggered by uncertainty of the future under federal control of immigration and the imposition of federal minimum wage. I mean, do you increase wage via statute or isn’t it best to let the market dictate it under the free enter-

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.*



prise system? The ultimate consequence is the bankruptcy we face from these impositions coupled by locally inflicted negligence and ruination.

Woefully troubling though is how easily we’ve shoved aside responsible disposition of matters of state. Have we owned up to our responsibilities as U.S. citizens to strengthen our democratic institutions? Could we name one issue where we’ve excelled on this score? Zero sounds very familiar, doesn’t it?

Is the Retirement Fund self-sustaining? Have we resolved the rising cost of health care and the domino effects of a disastrously chaotic economy? Why is the CNMI a very unsafe visitor destination? Isn’t tourism our last economic pillar? These are substantive self-government issues we’ve treated with a 10-foot pole and there’s no one else to blame but ourselves. The feds didn’t partake in the election of titular heads and policymakers on the islands. We did it since 1978.

When major foreign investors started deploying elsewhere, did we put our best foot forward to figure out what triggered their planned departure or assisted them in any form or fashion? Did we meet with them to mitigate turning private industries into “killing fields” of businesses? Or did we simply ignore them, contented that the days of opulence will go on in perpetuity? Has it moved in tandem with missed opportunities to work and nurture lasting economic partnership?

It seems the journey to Debt Cliff is shorter now than ever before. I’m not sure how we rearrange the chairs on the deck when the ship has toppled over. It seems dystopia—meaning where nothing works—has devoured these isles, sailing toward economic oblivion. Is there economic freedom for our children?

**Letter to the Editor****Toxic environment at the Tinian Health Center**

Tinian Health Center has an in-house policy that employees do not speak to the press that I have, until now, respected. However, I wish to say my farewells. There are people on Tinian I love dearly, people I returned to share life and laughter with, people who I will miss. As with all people we hold dear in our lives, we did not always agree, we often fought, but in the end we learned to respect each other’s individuality and forgive each other our idiosyncrasies. In my time here I have had disagreements with people, patients, and politicians, but I think even my biggest detractors would have to admit that even in disagreement what I have done and said always arose from my passion to deliver the best health care possible with the resources available to the people of this island, both as individuals and as a community. In the next few days it would not surprise me to see all kinds of controversy in this paper, from quiet sanity to foolish proud chest-thumping to just out and out self-serving falsehoods. This is my statement, my story, my truth—judge it and I as you will.

These are terrible and hard times for health care in the CNMI. Hardworking and brave individuals are putting in tireless hours behind the scenes to try and resolve issues and it has led to great conflict. On Nov. 17, 2003, Arly Long is quoted from an email memo she provided to the press in the *Marianas Variety*. The article states, in her words “...it was actually Dr. Steven Lebamoff that left the clinic when there were no other contracted providers to provide

coverage.” I guess the key word is contracted. I cannot say, because even though I have been granted the title of Medical Director and, as a midlevel provider a nurse practitioner is in theory subordinate to me, I am unaware of the details of Ms. Long’s contract, and neither she nor anyone else has seen it necessary to include me in on any final discussions. I do know a few things, as of this date, Ms. Long has never suffered a disruption or discontinuation of her benefits, salary, accrued leave, or any other term of her employment. She has, and would have to admit, that she has been treated fairly in this transitional time and never had to suffer financially in any way. Actual contract status, I can’t say, I don’t have the details, employment status has never, however, been disrupted. Another thing I know is that Ms. Long has worked long and hard to achieve her degree, and to also promote the ability of her peers as nurse practitioners to legally practice medicine without the supervision of a doctor, unlike physician assistants in the CNMI. So going back to Ms. Long’s statement, while I want to make it clear that I do not accuse her of being deliberately misleading, I do feel that her statement is vague and seems to lay blame unfairly on me. So let me say, that after working from Oct. 31 until midnight on Nov. 10, manning the five-day per week clinic as well as providing 24-hour per day emergency medical coverage, I handed over the responsibility of the clinic to a legally licensed health care professional with the

government granted authority of independent practice who agreed to accept the responsibility until my anticipated return on Monday, Nov. 14, when I would start another 11-day run (which, by the way, turned into a 22-day run until Monday, Dec. 2). Whether meant to wound or not, I find the implication in Ms. Long’s statement hurtful and damaging and to this point in time, it is a statement that remains explained to me by Ms. Long but not apologized for or retracted.

What happened after and before my return from Guam is an area of controversy that would bewilder even the wisdom of Solomon. It is enough to say that Ms. Long and I are deeply divided both morally and ethically on what transpired. In a discussion that became heated and yet never developed into name-calling or threats, we became aware that we both see the same issue, but just from completely different points of view. I cannot say she is wrong, I will not say she is right. Dr. Dearie came from Saipan to mediate between us all, but a factor soon to be brought up limited my input. When he left, everyone felt that three providers had agreed to continue to work at THC.

It is not easy. As Medical Director I have received written complaints from two of the previous providers and verbal complaints as recently as last night from two of the other providers about difficulties in working with Ms. Long. This also was part of a heated discussion on Dec. 5. Five providers since 2007 have difficulties

**See TOXIC on Page 13**

**SANTA**

From Page 10

gers demand to see my pilot license since they didn’t think I was old enough to fly. Now I’m one of the gray hairs.

I guess I should note how the kids of family and friends seem to have grown so much since we saw them last year, but I haven’t been surprised by that. What has surprised me was how the kids

have grown in divergent directions. Some are engaged with their surroundings; they spend a lot of time outdoors, and are hands-on in various their little projects such as building forts, go-carts, and such.

The others are totally glued to television and computer screens. They exist entirely in a virtual world. One of our friend’s kids, 18 years of age, was asked by her mother to go into the backyard to pick a lemon. The kid had no idea where lemons came from, even though she grew up in a house with a lemon tree in the back yard.

It made me realize that we now have a generation that has lived an entire virtual lifestyle, having been born into the computer world.

Meanwhile, my wife is sometimes tending the cell phone as she helps coordinate the logistics of her extended family making a trip to the Philippines, which involves, specifically, stocking the almighty “balikbayan” boxes of cargo. I think that half of the world’s known inventory of clothes and sundries is heading to Manila in cardboard boxes.

Anyway, I hope that your holidays are merrily underway.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Majuro	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 78

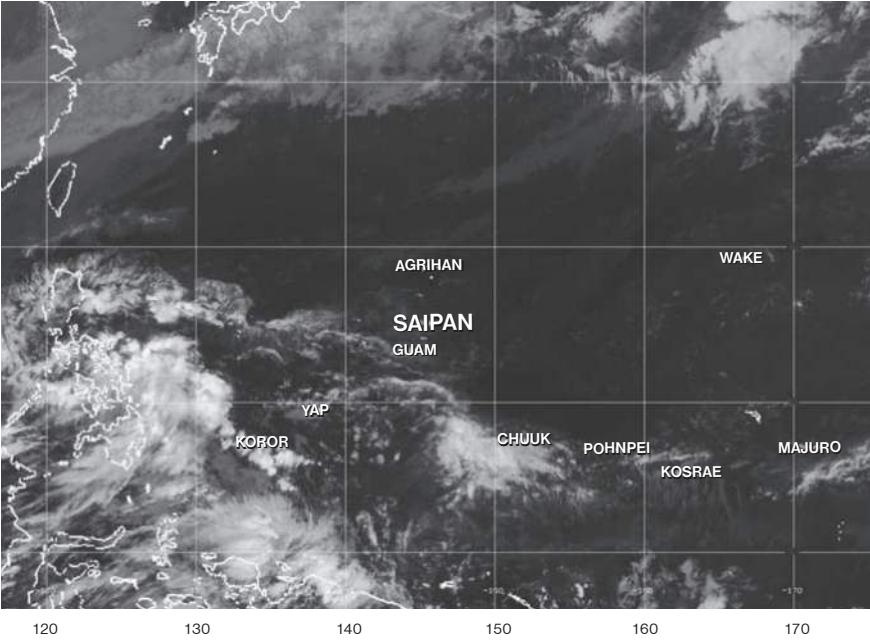
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 62
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 32 ▼ 19
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 54
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 71
London	Sunny	▲ 43 ▼ 33
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 40
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 65
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 66
New York	Sunny	▲ 45 ▼ 32
Osaka	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 39
Paris	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 38
Pusan	Windy	▲ 45 ▼ 31
Rome	Showers	▲ 63 ▼ 55
Salem	Fog	▲ 39 ▼ 27
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 45
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 33 ▼ 26
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 47 ▼ 37
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 44 ▼ 34

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
12:49 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:04 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
5:55 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from south of the Philippines across 4N130E to end well southeast of Yap near 1N142E. Scattered Showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Republic of Palau are southwest of a line from 13N130E to EQ142E. A surface trough just west of Chuuk stretches from 9N148E to 2N150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Chuuk are between 4N and 8N from 146E to 155E. An upper-level low centered northeast of Majuro at 14N177E is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just east of Majuro between the equator and 10N to the east of 173E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:31 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Monday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Tuesday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:40 PM	5:05 AM
Saturday	5:30 PM	5:57 AM
Sunday	6:22 PM	6:48 AM
Monday	7:16 PM	7:39 AM
Tuesday	8:10 PM	8:27 AM

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  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 6, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)</b> C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05070 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ704/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/179 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:10am 2:20pm 1, 2, 4, 6 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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**TOXIC**

From Page 11

with her, two have offered, inappropriately I concede, through me as Medical Director to return and work here as long as they do not have to work with her. In our discussion Ms. Long at first denied such a thing, and in the end said the problem lies with us. She fervently believes she is in the right, she has worked with 18 providers in 16 years, she informs me, and any problems with others, like these five providers in four years, or former directors, are because they are in the wrong. This validates to her, as she explained to me, her frequent use of contacting and asking for support from politicians. Indeed, she and her husband are so convinced that they are right, that on Nov. 15, Philip Long blogs, again in the *Marianas Variety*, "Don't worry about all the local agencies, we have already contacted the federal EEOC and will file complaints against THC, Freddy, and Dr. Lebamoff. If you would like to discuss this further, why don't you visit my office, I am sure you know where my office is. At least I am not afraid to post what I think with my real name to own what I say. I guess you don't have the guts nor the dignity to stand by your ignorant words." Pretty strong words for a man who later in the same blog says, "Let go of the hate and the jealousy." I have discussed this issue at length with Ms. Long. She does feel and has stated to me and others that many of her problems stem from jealousy of her education and the success of her husband.

But here, I must say, is where I break. Multiple times I have asked Ms. Long, even in front of Dr. Dearie, to confirm or deny this suit. She has brought it to up to me many times in the last six months. I have made administration aware of it. I have as recently as Monday tried to get a straight answer from Ms. Long, who coyly smiles and has answered, "Oh, I didn't know Philip put that in print," or "I don't want to say no," and countered with "but I didn't say yes." I have discussed with her that such intention will force me to release my position, and without other employment opportunities on Tinian, literally chase me from the Commonwealth. That does not seem to faze or deter her. For better or worse, depending on opinion, Mr. Hofschneider works endless hours just trying to keep things going and has yet to receive pay, unlike those sitting at home on full leave without a contract. To sue him I believe is frivolous and spiteful. I have even pointed out to her that Tinian Health Center now belongs to the larger Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., that such a move will embroil the entire public health care system in a controversy that it cannot afford at this time. She coolly and correctly asserts her right to bypass the locals and go to the feds to prove a point she assures me is "not about money." It is here where I break. I cannot operate and enforce any form of discipline on someone constantly holding the threat of suit over the heads of myself, my director and the very people I work for, the people who sign both of our checks. It was on this rock that the relationship between Ms. Long and I shattered. She does not see why a suit should disrupt our friendship, and the only excuse I can give is that I am human. I do not ask her to give up her right, and I know she feels deeply about this. But others do also and again, as Medical Director, I am receiving offers of sworn affidavits from the mainland, Guam, even as far as the Middle East that want to add their testimony to the defense of the Tinian Health Care Center and myself. Even when you are right, a course of action may be wrong for those that surround you. It has reached such a point of tension, that on Nov. 30, I formally handed in my letter of intent to resign rather than continue to deal with the pressure this suit applies to me, my friend Mr. Hofschneider, and the new organization just trying to survive its own birth.

Ms. Long entered my office on Monday wanting answers. I forewarned her she would not like them. Over and over until it got loud, I implored her to at least do all of us the dignity of a yes or no answer to her husband's claim of the impending suit so that we could be prepared. She asserted her rights, she explained the love that drove her husband, she explained how she felt I had bought local affection

by hanging out with "them" while she preferred the isolation of her family, she was all over the map, but never yes and never no. Until in frustration, I raised my voice and shouted, "Take it, have it, you win, it's all yours, so whatever you want, come and go as you please,

make your own rules, but I do not want to work with you. I am out of here." She has her rights, I have mine. She left the office through the door that was never locked when she entered, she was never

See TOXIC on Next Page

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- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Free moving-service
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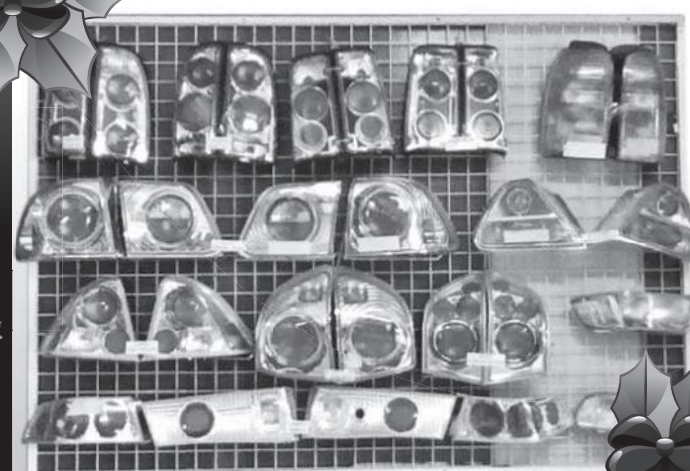
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## Letters to the Editor

### Are we listening?

William H. Stewart is a well-known author, historian, and economist and he has ties to this area. If you are a retiree and haven't read his "Message

for retirees" in *Saipan Tribune*, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011, please find that paper and read, read, read. He hit the nail squarely on the head. Not only our pen-

sions but Group Health and Life Insurance are at stake. Stewart writes: "Because the NMI government decided not to participate in the U.S. Social Security System...many retirees are now particularly vulnerable once their promised retirement collapses." He says of our people "...most will probably suffer by

experiencing much reduced income and a diminished standard of living."

We retirees cannot be passive; we cannot sit and wait for "someone to do something!" We, you and I, must do something! We must write, telephone, email, meet and talk with our senators and representatives of our Legislature to stay positive and device a plan to save the Fund, not let it fail. We elected these people to be leaders, thinkers, planners, instigators of ideas for the good of our people. Our Retirement Fund is for the

good of our people!

Will you listen to Stewart? I'm not an economist but he is. He is trying to help us. Contact your representative. Tell them how important this is to us. It is our survival. Ask them, no, beg them to come up with a plan to keep our retirement. Stewart's final words sat it all: "If you are a retiree, don't wait until five minutes to midnight to express your concern about this matter to your representative."

**Joan Kani**  
*Tanapag, Saipan*

## Support House Local Bill 17-63

House Local Bill 17-63 introduced by Rep. Teresita A. Santos of Rota reminds me of Public Law 7-31. A lot of employees have retired and some have passed away but they never received their retroactive pay. I'm hoping that those individuals who passed away will still receive their long overdue retroactive pay, to be released to surviving spouses or family members.

This time around, I am in full support of the effort of Rep. Santos in introducing House Local Bill 17-63, authorizing the Secretary of Finance to release checks issued to terminally ill or dialysis patients in the first Senatorial District who have expired and giving them to the surviving spouse or fam-

ily member that cared for him/her. I agree that once an appropriation bill is signed into law, it takes time for funds to be released. In the course of waiting for the appropriated funds to be released, some patients have passed away without receiving the funds. Arguably, it was prior to their passing away that funds were appropriated for them, and therefore such privilege to receive the funds should not end and must be issued to the surviving spouse or a member of the immediate family who cared for the deceased so that they can defray the expenses incurred while the deceased was still alive. The surviving family members sacrifices a lot, not only for the financial burden but to years of tending

to their loved ones.

House Local Bill 17-63 is not asking much but only for funds appropriated prior to the individual's death to be properly released to the surviving spouse or family members. It is such a creditable bill that we should be thankful to Rep. Santos for her continued dedication and commitment in protecting and representing the interest of the people of Rota. I am hoping that other members of the Rota Legislative Delegation share their support and approve House Local Bill 17-63 for the benefit of those who are caring and tending to terminally ill or dialysis patients.

**Rufo Maratita**  
*Sinapalo 1, Rota*

## TOXIC

From Page 13

sworn at, name-called or threatened. Over the next few hours, I walked outside and around the building rather than down the hall past her office attempting to avoid any conflict until the tension got so thick I went home sick. And while Saipan called to offer condolences and sincere well wishes for the future, I received texts that because she did not feel it was a fair discussion, Ms. Long had called the police on me to file charges of harassment. According to the director

at 5pm she insisted on him her intent to file civil suit as well as the impending suit with the EEOC. Apparently, not wanting to work with her or be sued by her is in Ms. Long's opinion harassment and she will not even let me walk away without getting her licks in. I apologize to the people of Tinian who I have disappointed by deserting them. I did not see my return as a short-term commitment I just cannot work in such a toxic environment.

**Stephan J. Lebamoff, MD**  
*San Jose Village, Tinian (for now)*

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# MCS' Theater Club, Manta Ray Band present *Rapunzeled*

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Just in time for the holidays, the Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club and Saipan Southern High School's Manta Band will join forces in bringing the classic fairy tale Rapunzel to life in a musical show next Friday.

Rapunzeled is a two-night special presentation that will feature music from Disney's animated feature, Tangled, and will be staged on Dec. 16 and 17, 7pm at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Ticket price is \$5 each

person and part of the proceeds will be donated to Manta Ray Band's 2012 London Olympics trip. The band last performed for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

Directed by Theatre Club veteran Victoria Camacho, the production stars Anastasia Schweiger as Rapunzel, Victor "Champ" Cabrera as Rapunzel's love interest, Leo, John Edward Elenzano as Leo's sidekick, Maximus, and Anne Gelika Elenzano as the evil Mother Gothel.

Although Camacho has been

an assistant director before, this production is her first to direct all by herself. "This was one of the hardest yet most rewarding experiences in my time in Theatre Club," she said. As the lead character, Schweiger echoed Camacho's sentiments. "It's difficult, but I enjoy doing it because it makes people happy," the main star said.

The script for the musical was developed by the theatre club in a collaborative writing process that involved the director, lead cast members, and some crew members. The story follows Ra-

punzel as she escapes Mother Gothel in an effort to find her real family, while aided by Leo, who, in contrast, is trying to escape his family. Along the way, Rapunzel and Leo stumble through one obstacle after another until finding themselves and each other.

For its part, the Manta Ray Band will be conducted by its musical director and conductor William DeWitt with some assistance from Joeray Dela Cruz of the Guam Territorial Band. This performance with MCS' Theatre Club will mark the third

collaboration with the school. The two groups collaborated in the past in musical shows It's A Wonderful Life in December 2008 and Winter's Tale in December 2009.

Theatre Club advisor and Rapunzeled producer, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, is very happy about the continued collaboration between the two.

"It is such an honor to be able to work with such an accomplished band such as the Manta Ray Band. From Carnegie Hall, the Tumon Bay International Music Festival, to local produc-

tions like this, the Manta Ray Band always brings pure magic. We hope to continue collaborating on similar projects in the future," said Deleon Guerrero.

He said the show is made possible, in part, by generous support from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Northern Marianas College. Tickets for the show are available at Mount Carmel School or from cast and crew members. Due to limited seating, advance purchase of tickets is recommended. For more information, call 234-6184 or email galvin@itecnmi.com.

## NMC announces Tan Siu Lin Foundation scholars

The Northern Marianas College yesterday announced the recipients of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarship Program. From a highly competitive selection process, the following students were selected:

- Tudela, Jeri May C.
- Golvingo, Shane D.
- Alforeza III, Severino P.
- Buenpacifico, Keolester
- Manabat, Alvi Jane F.
- Palacios, Jason Ray R.
- Demapan, Stacey L.
- Santos, Elvielynn C.
- Marchitti, Susan
- Sablan, Jesse C.

The scholarship program is part of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation's ongoing efforts to promote higher education among CNMI students. The program

awards \$1,000 per scholarship to students majoring in hospitality management, business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and education.

"We recognize the central role that the Northern Marianas College plays in the personal and professional development of CNMI students—and, on a larger scale—the CNMI's workforce," said Tan Holdings president, Jerry Tan. "We want to support that role by providing financial assistance to students who have the potential to excel academically and professionally."



Tan

The Tan Holdings Foundation was formed in 2002 and was renamed after the company's founder and chairman, Dr. Tan Siu Lin. Through the years, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has launched initiatives and built trusted partnerships with a diverse array of individuals, families, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. These partners represent many different backgrounds and income levels. The TSL Foundation's main mission is to better serve the regions where it operates to make such communities a better place to live.

"We are very grateful to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for once again providing this scholarship," said NMC president Sharon Y. Hart. "The financial assistance will definitely make

a significant impact in helping students pursue their educational goals."

The scholarships are based on merit and are awarded on the basis of the candidate's community involvement, academic background, and letters of rec-

ommendation. The written essay also plays a key role in the final selection of scholarship recipients.

The selection committee was composed of NMC staff, faculty, and a representative from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. (NMC)

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 <b>2006 Nissan Sentra</b> STOCK # 6L553491 <b>\$11,995<sup>00*</sup></b>	 <b>2008 Mazda RX8</b> STOCK # 80214167 <b>\$17,995<sup>00*</sup></b>	 <b>2006 Ford Fusion SEL</b> STOCK # 6R196430 <b>\$12,995<sup>00*</sup></b>		
 <b>2005 Ford Five Hundred SE</b> STOCK # 5G156167 <b>\$11,995<sup>00*</sup></b>	 <b>2005 Ford Escape Limited 4WD</b> STOCK # 5KB01594 <b>\$12,995<sup>00*</sup></b>	 <b>2008 Kia Sedona LX</b> STOCK # 86261071 <b>\$16,995<sup>00*</sup></b>		
 <b>2007 Toyota Camry Hybrid</b> STOCK # 7C408346 <b>\$19,995<sup>00*</sup></b>	 <b>2005 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer</b> STOCK # 5LA47104 <b>\$19,995<sup>00*</sup></b>	 <b>2008 Nissan Quest S</b> STOCK # 8N111101 <b>\$18,995<sup>00*</sup></b>		
 <b>Mona Mengloi</b> Sales Consultant Visit or call 234-5562			 <b>2009 Nissan Xterra S</b> STOCK # 9C509155 <b>\$21,995<sup>00*</sup></b>	 <b>2010 Honda Odyssey EX</b> STOCK # AB086532 <b>\$28,995<sup>00*</sup></b>

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# Kee Sandwich To Go turns a year old

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

It seems like only yesterday when Kee Sandwich To Go quietly opened its doors on the corner of Coral Tree Avenue and Palm St. across from Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan. The sandwich shop owned by longtime businessman Ta Bun Kuy now marks its first year anniversary.

Ta couldn't think of a better way to celebrate the occasion than transforming the menu for Kee Sandwich To Go, adding more food items and to provide

customers with a better selection than before.

Kee Sandwich To Go now offers more local fares with the inclusion of Chamorro sausage sandwich, Chamorro calzoni pizza, Chamorro ramen, Chamorro cheeseburger, Chamorro sausage pizza, Chamorro fried rice, and Chamorro omelet.

"It's an ideal place to bring your off-island guests and have a go at our delicious local food items for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The best thing is we are open 24 hours," Ta told *Saipan Tribune*.

Besides having Chamorro meal choices, Kee Sandwich To Go continues to feature its staple sandwiches which include Smoked Chicken Sandwich, Tuna Melt Sandwich, and Vietnamese Special Sandwich.

Kee Sandwich To Go also offers a variety of Vietnamese short order dishes such as the Vietnamese spring rolls and Vietnamese sandwich, which are a must try. Customers can soon look forward to another addition in the menu called Pho or the Vietnamese beef noodle soup.

Ta revealed that their home-made cheeseburger, made of succulent and flavorful



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Kee Sandwich To Go's home-made cheeseburger still remains the most popular item in the deli's menu.

ground beef patties garnished with crisp vegetables packed in freshly baked hamburger buns from his own bakery, Chow Queen Bakery, still remains the most popular item in their menu

and is certainly worth trying.

"The nice thing about our very own recipe of cheeseburger is that once you try it, you'll keep coming back for more because it's really juicy

and tasty," added Ta.

Additionally, Kee Sandwich To Go has an affordable lunch menu of mostly Filipino dishes from Monday to Sunday for only \$3.25 for one choice and \$4.50 for two choices, both inclusive of soup of the day.

Finish off with irresistible and comforting desserts like ice cream, shave ice, and halo-halo at affordable prices.

Kee Sandwich To Go patrons can enjoy their preferred sandwich or other dishes 24/7 in the spacious indoor dining setting or outdoors while taking in the fresh island breeze.

"Get your hunger satisfied at Kee Sandwich To Go any time of the day or night," said Ta.

Visit Kee Sandwich To Go across from Hyatt Regency Saipan. To order or for more information, call 233-1388/78/68.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

One year after its opening, Kee Sandwich To Go now offers more local fares as well as a variety of Vietnamese short order dishes.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### DPS' public safety outreach for holidays in Marianas Agupa

*Marianas Agupa* will feature public safety outreach and awareness for the holidays this Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10am to 10:30am. Guests will be police officers Adrian Mendiola and Rudy Sablan of DPS Traffic Section. The show starts at 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM.

The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Featured reports are as follows: World report and program review by former Tinian mayor Joseph S. Inos and a

report from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola, a special segment called Hafa Mohon with Juanita Mendiola and a report from Tinian by correspondent and radio commentator with former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous internet via [www.magic100radio.com](http://www.magic100radio.com) will be available. (PR)

### Learn how to cook bunelus dagu, eskabechi

The Inetnon Amot yan Kutturán Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kk-oor Aramasal Faluw is offering free lessons to Chamorros and

Carolinians on making bunelus dagu and eskabechi at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters (1213 Capital Hill Road, across the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office) this Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011. The lessons will be from 9:30am to 12pm.

These activities are offered by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Indigenous Affairs Office (Saipan) and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call 322-0278. (PR)



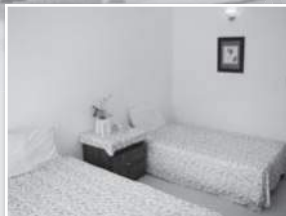
## Micro Beach Hotel

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**\$250 to \$350**

Monthly Rate  
(Power not included.)

For Reservation / Inquiry: 233-1388/1368.





# Kee

## Sandwich to go

### 1st Year Anniversary

The best home-made Burger.  
Juicy and Tasty!!!

## Daily Lunch

(Monday to Sunday)

## \$3.25

1-choice

## \$4.50

2-choice

**PLUS SOUP OF THE DAY**

We also serve Chamorro Breakfast, Coffee, Ice Cream, Shave Ice, Halo-Halo, Pizza, French Fries w/ flavor (BBQ, Cheese)....



**Phone: 233-1388 / 78 / 68 (across Hyatt Hotel)**

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Inside Micro Beach Hotel Food Court



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More information and applications can be found at [www.sablan.house.gov](http://www.sablan.house.gov), or by calling 670-323-2647 in Saipan, 532-2647 in Rota, or 433-2647 in Tinian. Applications are due December 15, 2011.

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# Business

## US: No to over-the-counter morning-after pill

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a surprise move with election-year implications, the Obama administration's top health official overruled her own drug regulators and stopped the Plan B morning-after pill from moving onto drugstore shelves next to the condoms.

The decision by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius means the Plan B

One-Step emergency contraceptive will remain behind pharmacy counters, as it is sold today—available without a prescription only to those 17 and older who can prove their age.

The Food and Drug Administration was preparing to lift the age limit on Wednesday and allow younger teens, who today must get a prescription, to buy it without restriction. That would

have made Plan B the nation's first over-the-counter emergency contraceptive, a pill that can prevent pregnancy if taken soon enough after unprotected sex.

But Sebelius intervened at the eleventh hour and overruled FDA, deciding that young girls shouldn't be able to buy the pill on their own—especially since some girls as young as 11 are physically ca-

pable of bearing children.

"It is common knowledge that there are significant cognitive and behavioral differences between older adolescent girls and the youngest girls of reproductive age," Sebelius said. "I do not believe enough data were presented to support the application to make Plan B One-Step available over the counter for all girls of reproductive age."

The move will anger a pivotal part of Obama's Democratic base, and Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, a member of the Senate leadership, quickly asked for Sebelius to explain her decision. The White House said Sebelius, who is very close to Obama and worked on his 2008 presidential campaign, de-

cided on her own.

But the move also could help Democrats make their case to independents, whose support will be critical in next fall's presidential election, that Obama is not the liberal ideologue Republicans claim. It followed Obama administration reversals this year on some environmental and other issues that irked Democrats.

It was believed to be the first time that the HHS has publicly overruled an FDA decision.

It was the latest twist in a nearly decade-long push for easier access to emergency contraception, and the development shocked women's groups and maker Teva Pharmaceuticals, which had been gearing up for

over-the-counter sales to begin by month's end.

"We are outraged that this administration has let politics trump science," said Kirsten Moore of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, an advocacy group. "There is no rationale for this move."

"This decision is stunning. I had come to believe that the FDA would be allowed to make decisions based on science and the public's health," said Susan Wood of George Washington University, who served as the FDA's top women's health official until resigning in 2005 to protest delays in deciding Plan B's fate. She said, "Sadly, once again, FDA has been overruled and not allowed to do its job."



This frame grab from video shows a box of Plan B morning after pill. In a surprise move with election-year implications, the Obama administration's top health official overruled her own drug regulators and stopped the Plan B morning-after pill from moving onto drugstore shelves next to the condoms.

## Shoppers say 'ho-hum' not 'ho-ho-ho' to sales

By CHRISTINA REXRODE and SARAH SKIDMORE  
AP RETAIL WRITERS

Used to be, customers would come running when stores cut prices. But these days, more Americans are becoming blasé about bargains.

Jennifer Beasley recently left a Toys R Us in Cary, N.C., unimpressed by the retailer's offers that day of 50 percent discounts on things like a \$150 Sylvania tablet computer and a \$45 My Baby Alive Doll.

"The sales just aren't as good this year," says Beasley, 30, who has three children. "It's almost not worth getting up."

People have been shopping more than ever this holiday season, largely because of a flood of sales. But Americans have become so used to deep discounts in the weak economy that they expect each sale to be bigger and better than the last. That means retailers will likely have to keep slashing prices, which could hurt their bottom line.

"I think they're going to have to continue to do the kind of 'come on' pricing that you saw

on Black Friday," or the day after Thanksgiving, says Alison Paul, head of consulting firm Deloitte's U.S. retail practice.

Merchants already are rolling out big holiday sales. The Body Shop is letting customers spin a wheel of chance to win different discounts, including offers of "buy three, get three." The Gap is selling many of its pajamas, kids' hoodies and men's cardigans for 50 percent off. And Target has Barbie, Thomas the Tank Engine and many of its other toy brands for "buy one, get one half off."

But some shoppers are yawning at deals that once excited them.

"The ads and the sales—I think it's all hype," says Karen Finch of Gresham, Ore., who is waiting to buy a tablet for her son until closer to Christmas Day because she thinks the discounts on Amazon.com—48 percent off a \$500 Blackberry version, for instance—aren't good enough. "There's no substance."

To be sure, consumers' perceptions of deals don't always jibe with reality. Most retailers

decline to discuss their pricing strategy because of competitive reasons, but research by analysts at Jefferies & Co. and other firms found that many deals this year are as good as—if not better than—last year's.

For instance, American Eagle offered 40 percent off everything all day on Black Friday—better than the 20 percent off until noon that it offered for the past two years, according to Jefferies analysts. The average discount at Best Buy on Black Friday was almost 45 percent, up from about 34 percent last year. The average discount at Wal-Mart was about 47 percent, better than last year's average of 43 percent.

And anyway, what shoppers say and do often are two different things. Consumers told Deloitte in September that they planned to spend about 5 percent less on Christmas this year. But the reality so far is different: Americans spent \$52.4 billion over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, the highest total ever recorded for that period and 16 percent greater than last year, according to the National Retail Federation.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### US prods Europe on crisis, publicly and privately

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is darting across Europe with a stark message: The continent's leaders must act quickly and convincingly to defuse a debt crisis that is threatening the global economy. His visit this week comes on the eve of a summit of European leaders Friday that could yield a plan for resolving the crisis. Optimists hope a deal would persuade investors to lend to countries, like Italy and Spain, that are straining under crushing debt burdens. Geithner's trip to five European cities is the most visible part of a broader drive the United States has been making, publicly and privately, to nudge Europe to resolve its crisis.

#### Foreigners in China squeezed by pensions, taxes

BEIJING (AP)—Foreign companies that are looking to China to shore up wilting global sales have been hit by higher payroll taxes, surcharg-

es to subsidize unions and other changes that are making conditions tougher just as economic growth slows. The biggest worry for many is an abrupt order for foreign workers and their employers to start paying up to 40 percent of their wages for pensions and other welfare. Automakers face a possible tax hike, while tax authorities are testing a system to collect dues for China's umbrella labor group from companies without union workers.

#### Simpler credit card agreement gets a tryout

WASHINGTON (AP)—A simpler credit card agreement is getting a tryout. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on Wednesday released a prototype of a credit card agreement that's written in plain English. The idea is to sweep away the legalese and make it easier for consumers to understand a card's costs and terms. The agency is asking for the public's feedback on the form, which can be found at: <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/credit-cards/knowbeforeyouowe>.

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Nation

Nation marks 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor

**PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii** (AP)—In wheelchairs and on walkers, the old veterans came Wednesday to remember the day 70 years ago when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. But FDR’s “date that will live in infamy” is becoming a more distant memory.

Fewer and fewer veterans who experienced the attack on Dec. 7, 1941, are alive to mark the anniversaries and most of them are in their 90s, many prevented by health problems from traveling to Hawaii. One survivors’ group said it would disband because age and infirmity made it too difficult to carry on.

“People had other things that they wanted to do with the remainder of their lives,” Pearl Harbor Survivors Association president William Muehleib said. “It was time.”

The 2,390 Americans who

died in the attacks are not forgotten. Besides Pearl Harbor, there are remembrances elsewhere

In Phoenix, the goal every year is to draw 1,177 people—the number who died on the USS *Arizona*—to march through the city, but organizers don’t come close to that anymore.

Just 45 people showed up last year. On Wednesday, about 300 people gathered for a mile-long remembrance walk, carrying miniature U.S. flags and tags bearing the names of Pearl Harbor casualties.

“As time goes by, it might actually fade. This may be the last significant anniversary when we could thank a survivor. Get out there. Get your chance to thank them,” event chairman Ben Ernyei said.

Those who made it to Pearl Harbor were treated to a hero’s reception. The 5,000 spectators

whistled, shouted and applauded loudly as the 120 or so survivors stood to be recognized, and others asked for autographs and

took photos with them.

Muehleib said local chapters of his group will function as long as they have members and



Pearl Harbor survivor Herb Weatherwax, center, is helped to his feet during the memorial ceremony, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

survivors can gather socially, but they will no longer have a formal, national organization. He also predicted survivors would attend future commemorations at Pearl Harbor.

The association—founded in 1958—has 2,700 members, he said. There are an estimated 7,000 to 8,000 Pearl Harbor survivors.

President Barack Obama hailed the veterans in a statement proclaiming Wednesday as “National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.”

“Their tenacity helped define the Greatest Generation and their valor fortified all who served during World War II,” he said. “As a

nation, we look to December 7, 1941, to draw strength from the example set by these patriots and to honor all who have sacrificed for our freedoms.”

Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, witnessed the attacks as a young man in Honolulu and fought in World War II, losing his right arm in combat and earning the Medal of Honor.

“As we continue to lose members of the Greatest Generation, those who witnessed the attack, lived through the war and saw the world change, we must remember the events of December 7,” he said in a speech on the Senate floor.

Blagojevich gets 14 years in prison for corruption

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Rod Blagojevich, the ousted Illinois governor whose three-year battle against criminal charges became a national spectacle, was sentenced to 14 years in prison Wednesday, one of the stiffest penalties imposed for corruption in a state with a history of crooked politics.

Among his 18 convictions is the explosive charge that he tried to leverage his power to appoint someone to President Barack Obama’s vacated Senate seat in exchange for campaign cash or land a high-paying job.

Judge James Zagel gave Blagojevich some credit for taking responsibility for his actions, but said that didn’t mitigate his crimes. The judge also said Blagojevich did good things for people as governor, but was more concerned about using his powers for himself. The former governor admitted his crimes and apologized in court earlier in the day.

“When it is the governor who goes bad, the fabric of Illinois is torn and disfigured and not easily repaired,” Zagel said.

As the judge announced the sentence, which includes a \$20,000 fine, Blagojevich hunched forward and his face appeared frozen. Minutes later, his wife, Patti Blagojevich, stood up and fell into her husband’s arms. He pulled back to brush tears off her cheek and then rubbed her shoulders.

On his way out of the courthouse, Blagojevich said it was a time to be strong, to fight through adversity and be strong for his children. He said he and wife were heading home to speak to their daughters, and then left without answering any questions.

But during the nearly 19 minutes that Blagojevich addressed

Zagel, his children and what he has done to their lives dominated his plea for mercy.

Because of his crimes, “I have jeopardized my ability to protect my children,” he told the judge. “My children have had to suffer. I’ve ruined their innocence.”

The twice-elected Democrat received by far the harshest sentence among the four Illinois governors sent to prison in the last four decades. He is the second in a row to go to prison; his Republican predecessor, George Ryan, currently is serving 6 1/2 years. The other two got three years or less.

Blagojevich, in a last plea for mercy, tried something he never had before: an apology. After years of insisting he was innocent, he told the judge he’d made “terrible mistakes” and acknowledged that he broke the law—even as he maintained that at the time he did not know he was breaking the law.

Notice of Zoning Board Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Bldg., Saipan

- A. Preliminary Matters**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Public Comments (*not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings*)
- B. Public Hearings**
  1. Conditional Use Application – The Saipan Mayor’s Office Dog Control Program is proposing to operate a Dog Transfer Shelter on lot 012-H17. This area is located in between Casilda and Konsolacion Streets behind the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa.
- C. Communications/ Reports**
- D. Old Business**
  1. None
- E. New Business**
  1. None
- F. Executive (Closed) Session**
- G. Miscellaneous:** Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

Please contact Therese Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661 for any questions. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Please be informed that Angelina “Tin” Podiquit former COP Accounts Payable Accountant is no longer an employee of Suwaso Corporation dba Coral Ocean Point Resort Club (COP) after November 22, 2011, and is therefore no longer authorized to act, in any form whatsoever, on COP’s behalf. If you have any question or concern, please call 234-7000 or 237-7000.

Robert Tenorio Torres  
Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950  
  
Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749  
  
Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS			
MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff,		Civil Action No. 06-0590-CV	
vs.			
WILLIAM DLG. ANGUI and JESSIE A. ANGUL, Defendants.			

**THIRD NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**  
  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 23rd day of August, 2007, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 13th day of January, 2012 at 10 a.m., at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 011 G 1067, located in Kagman III, Saipan, containing an area of 841 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 10 dated December 1, 1993 and recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 93-4178 on December 3, 1993.

- Terms and Conditions of Sale.**
1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
    - a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
    - b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
    - c) To reject any and all bids.
  2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
  3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.
  4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
  5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 29th day of November, 2011.  
  
/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres  
Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950  
  
Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749  
  
Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS			
MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff,		Civil Action No. 10-0254CV	
vs.			
YVONNE A. ATALIG and GODEL OMENGEAR, Defendants.			

**NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**  
  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 6th day of May, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 13th day of January, 2012 at 10 a.m., at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 347 R 90, located on Rota, containing an area 828 square meters, more or less, as particularly described on the Division of Lands and Survey's Official Cadastral Plat No. 347 R. 07, the original of which was recorded on December 9, 1993, as Document No. 93-4282 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan..

- Terms and Conditions of Sale.**
1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
    - a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
    - b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
    - c) To reject any and all bids.
  2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
  3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.
  4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
  5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 29th day of November, 2011.  
  
/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer



# Asia

## US official says military pacts not aimed at China

**BEIJING (AP)**—The strengthening of U.S. military alliances in Asia is not aimed at containing China, a top Pentagon official said Thursday after annual defense talks that reflected Chinese misgivings about America's regional agenda but also offered the possibility of more robust ties between the two militaries.

China has been concerned by a renewed focus on the Asia Pacific by the U.S. military as it winds down operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, including plans to rotate 2,500 Marines to Australia for training and strengthened military ties with allies Japan and the Philippines as well as former enemy Vietnam.

Defense Undersecretary Michele Flournoy said she told her Chinese counterparts, including Gen. Ma Xiaotian, that the moves were aimed at reassuring countries in the region of the continuing U.S. presence and boosting defense interoperability with Australia.

"We assured Gen. Ma and his delegation that the U.S. does not seek to contain China. We do not view China as an adversary," Flournoy told reporters at a briefing on the talks.

"This really isn't about China. This is about Australia and ensuring that we remain present in the region in a way that is really relevant to the kinds of, particu-

larly nontraditional, challenges that we face," she said.

Many Chinese are convinced the U.S. moves are aimed at a rising China, particularly hard-line generals and other outspoken officers whose writings frequently appear in the deeply nationalist state-run media.

Many in Washington also see the moves as an attempt to curb growing Chinese assertiveness, an impression shored up by President Barack Obama during a visit to the region last month in which he asserted the role of the U.S. as a Pacific power.

Although China's military has lashed out at recent U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and other

actions, Beijing's decision to proceed with Wednesday's talks appears to show it is placing a new importance on regular contacts between the sides, even as their rivalry sharpens.

In opening remarks Wednesday, Ma said going ahead with the 12th round of U.S.-China Defense Consultative Talks shows both sides are committed to improving relations, managing and controlling risks and avoiding miscalculation.

Flournoy said the sides agreed to discuss rescheduling a series of exchanges postponed by Beijing in anger over Washington's announcement in September of a \$5.85 billion package to upgrade Taiwan's F-16 fleet.

## PH: China executes convicted Filipino

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A Filipino man convicted on drug trafficking charges was executed in China on Thursday despite an appeal for clemency from President Benigno Aquino III on humanitarian grounds, Philippine officials said.

Hours before he was put to death, the 35-year-old man, who was not identified, was allowed to meet briefly with his two siblings and two cousins who traveled to southern Guangxi province, Vice President Jejomar Binay told reporters.

The man was then led to a courtroom where the sentence was read and whisked away to the death chamber, located in Liuzhou, about two hours away from the prison, where he was given a lethal injection, he said.

"The subject was very calm, but his family was crying," Binay said. "At 12:30 (p.m.) our countryman was executed."

The man was arrested in 2008 at Guilin International Airport while trying to smuggle 3.3 pounds (1.5 kilograms) of heroin from Malaysia. Smuggling more than 1.76 ounces (50 grams) of heroin or other drugs is punishable by death in China.

Although China went ahead with the execution despite Aquino's appeal for clemency, government officials have said they respect China's judicial system and that the execution would not hurt bilateral relations.

Overlapping territorial claims over potentially gas-rich islands in the South China Sea have strained ties between the Philippines and China.

China is the world's biggest

executioner, according to Amnesty International. The Philippines and Cambodia are Southeast Asia's only nations to have abolished the death penalty.

In March, China executed three Filipino workers also convicted of smuggling heroin despite last-minute appeals and political concessions by Philippine leaders. The Philippine government said it was able to prove that a drug syndicate had taken advantage of the Filipinos.

The head of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Jose Gutierrez Jr., said earlier that authorities were hunting for the recruiter of the executed drug mule, who is suspected to be a member of an African drug trafficking syndicate. He said the man convicted in China had previously engaged in drug trafficking and was paid \$4,000 to \$6,000 for every smuggling operation.

On the streets, reaction was mixed.

"On the one hand, if he really did it and is deserving of that punishment, then this is all right," said construction worker Edwin Cruzado. "But if a person is innocent, that is very sad."

He said that poverty is no excuse for a crime. "But their punishment in China is a bit harsh," Cruzado added.

The plight of millions of Filipino living overseas, most of them contractual workers, is an emotional issue in the country.

Foreign relations are anchored on a policy to ensure safety and welfare for workers, who often find themselves in conflict zones and countries with starkly different cultures.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Japan FM feels 'deep emotion' about Pearl Harbor

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan's foreign minister says he feels "deep emotion" about the 70th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Koichiro Gemba said Wednesday that even though the U.S. and Japan fought in World War II, their alliance now is vital for the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region. Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941—Dec. 8 Japan time—brought the U.S. into the war.

#### American sentenced to prison for Thai royal insult

**BANGKOK (AP)**—A court in Thailand sentenced a U.S. citizen to two and a half years in prison Thursday for defaming the country's royal family by translating excerpts of a locally banned biography of the king and posting them online. The verdict is the latest so-called lese majeste punishment handed down in the Southeast Asian kingdom, which has come under increasing pressure at home and abroad to reform harsh legislation that critics say is an affront to freedom of expression. The 55-year-old Thai-born American, Joe Gordon, stood calmly with his ankles shackled in an orange prison uniform as the sentence was read out at a Bangkok criminal court.

#### World's oldest dog dies in Japan at age 26

**TOKYO (AP)**—The world's oldest dog according to Guinness World Records has died in Japan at the age of 26 years and eight months. Owner Yumiko Shinohara told reporters at her home in Sakura, a city outside Tokyo, that Pusuke, a fluffy tan Shiba mix, died Monday after suddenly falling ill and refusing to eat. Shinohara told TV network FNN that she "would just like to thank him for staying alive so long." The report said Pusuke's life span would have been the equivalent of about 125 years for a human.

## In Loving Memory of GERALD VICTOR SKILANG SABLAN

Fondly known as "Jerry", "Jay", "G"

Born: November 28, 1956  
Died: December 4, 2011

*In his new life, he now joins:*

**Father:** Juan Atalig Sablan

*His love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of his:*

**Mother:** Agnes Skilang Sablan

**Wife:** Jung Soon P. Sablan

**Children:** Miso, Roseanna, Christina Marie, William Gerald, Yezhi Apple, Dae Geon, Dae Hyun, Eyun Ji

**Brothers:** †Henry Skilang Sablan (John, Hanalae Jason, Joshua, Jake, Henry Jr., Shaena, Benigno Sengai, Gregory) Michael Skilang Sablan (Stephen, Zachary, Adam) †Benigno Skilang Sablan

**Sisters:** Virginia Ann Sablan and Andrew Went (Matthew, Kaela) Catherine and Charles V. Cepeda (Cyji—Charles Pablo)

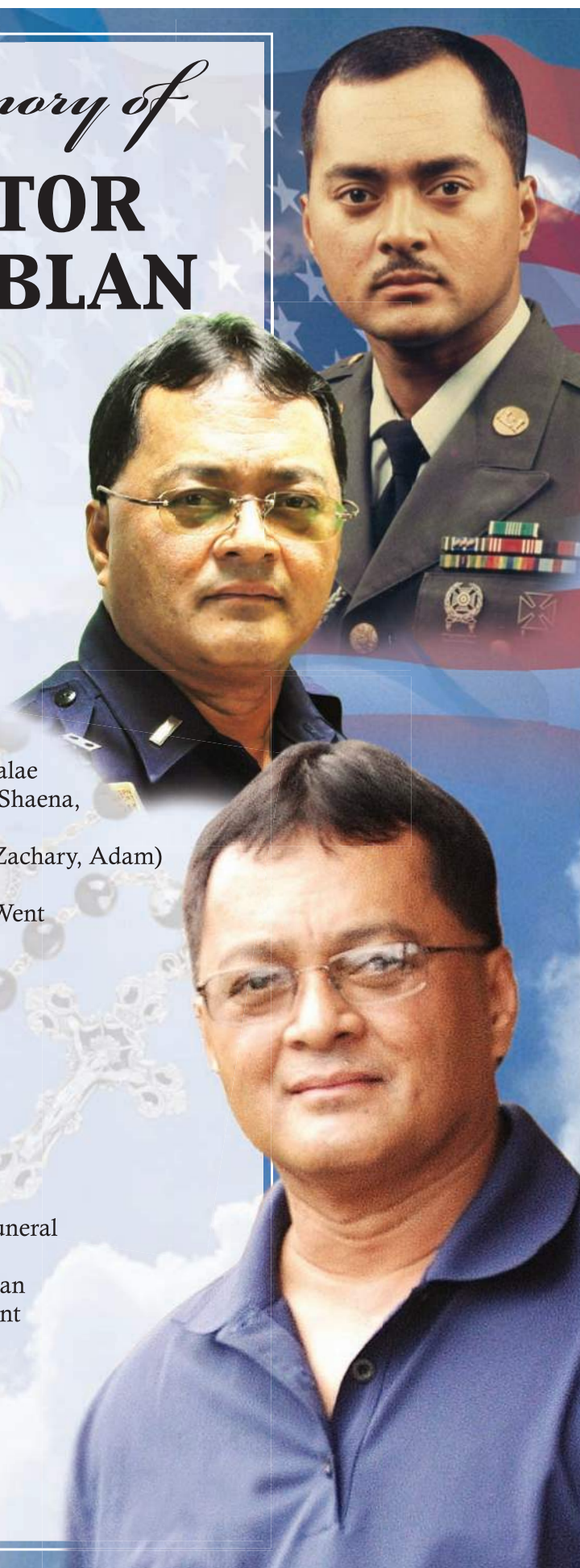
*He will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews and nieces.*

Nightly rosaries are prayed at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 pm.

His remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 am on Monday, December 12, 2011. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 am followed by interment at the CNMI Veteran's Cemetery in Marpi.

Please join us in prayer.

*Thank you, Si Yu'us Maase,  
Me Sulang, Kamsahamnida*





# World

## Egypt's rulers: Parliament won't be representative

**CAIRO (AP)**—Egypt's military rulers said Wednesday the next parliament will not be representative enough to independently oversee the drafting of a constitution, and they will appoint a council to check the influence of religious extremists on the process.

The announcement followed a surprisingly strong showing by Islamist groups who took the overwhelming majority in the first round of parliamentary elections. The outcome caused concern among the liberals who drove Egypt's uprising and the military, which took power from ousted leader Hosni Mubarak.

"We are in the early stages of democracy," said Gen. Mukhtar Mulla, a member of the ruling military council. "The parliament is not representing all sectors of society."

In theory, the new parliament will be entrusted with forming a 100-member constituent assembly to write the new constitution. But Mulla said the new council will coordinate with parliament and the Cabinet to ensure the assembly is representative of all religions, professions, and political parties.

The new constitution will determine the nature of Egypt's post-Mubarak political system. Liberal groups and the military—a secular institution that has traditionally controlled access of Islamists to its ranks—are concerned that religious extremists will exert too much influence and could try to enshrine strict Islamic law, or Shariah, as the only guiding principle for state policies.

Voters chose both parties and individuals in the complex electoral system. The Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamic fundamentalist group that was the best known and organized party, and the more radical Al-Nour party—ultraconservative Islamists known as Salafis—took about 60 percent of the vote for parties together, according to official results.

Late Wednesday, the electoral commission released results for 48 individual seats decided in the first round. The Brotherhood won 30, Al-Nour won six and the third-place liberal Egyptian Bloc took six. The rest went to smaller parties.

The vote—which is being held in three stages—was the freest and fairest in Egypt's modern history. The final two rounds are not expected to alter the Islamists' dominance.

The result was a devastating blow for the mostly secular and liberal youth who drove the uprising. And though they have been highly critical of the military's rule and recently staged a new wave of protests demanding the generals hand power to a civilian authority, the ground has shifted with elections. Some liberals may find solace in the military's attempt to protect the constitution from overzealous Islamist tendencies.

"Many of the liberal forces, which were before against interference of the military, will not object whenever there are attempts (by Islamists) to alter basic civic rights," said Ammar Ali Hassan, a political analyst.

But the battle over the constitution could deepen an already polarized Egyptian society as the military reasserts its grip on power.

Speaking to a small group of mostly American reporters, Mulla made clear that the ruling military council, as the executive, will maintain ultimate authority over the functioning of the new parliament and government.

Asked whether the new council is an attempt to limit the influence of the hard-line Salafis, who want to impose strict Islamic law on Egypt, Mulla said: "Absolutely. ... The Egyptian people won't allow this to happen."

### JOINT ANNIVERSARY





**†Melvin Joseph Saures Warakai - 2<sup>nd</sup> Year**    
 **Joaquin Pangelinan Villanueva - 10<sup>th</sup> Year**  
**Margarita Basa Villanueva - 12<sup>th</sup> Year**    
 **†Gary Glenn Basa Villanueva - 8<sup>th</sup> Year**

We would like to invite all our relatives, friends and acquaintances to join us in prayers as we commemorate the death anniversary of our beloved.

Daily mass will be offered at San Jose Church beginning Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 6:00am.

On the final day, December 11, 2011, mass will be celebrated at 9:00am.  
 Breakfast will be served immediately at the Social Hall, San Jose Church.

**Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Maase Ginen I Familian Ma'mi.**

*In Loving Memory of  
our Dearly Beloved*

## Camilo Arellano Orallo

Lovingly known as "Milo"

October 28, 1943 – December 4, 2011

*His memory will forever live in the hearts of his:*

**Wife:**  
**Children:**

Cirila Orallo  
 Imelda Orallo Reyes  
 Marilou Orallo Johnson  
 Richard Orallo  
 Rhoda Marie Orallo Ibanez  
 Camille Orallo

**Brother & Sisters:**

Mary Layson  
 Flordelisa Mortel  
 Juanito Orallo  
 Luisa Orallo

*He will also be deeply missed by his  
numerous relatives and friends.*

Mass of intention is being celebrated each morning at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church. Holy rosary is being prayed each evening at 8:00pm until Monday, December 12, 2011.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2011. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Kristo Rai Church at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 7:45am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am.

His remains will be repatriated to Bulacan, Philippines on December 14, 2011.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank You & Maraming Salamat Po.

**Cirila C. Orallo & Children**

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Germany, France scale back ambitions of summit

**BERLIN (AP)**—German and French officials lowered expectations Wednesday for a deal to save the euro at this week's European summit, deflating investors' hopes for an imminent resolution to Europe's debt crisis. On the same day that German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy released the details of a plan for European nations to submit their economies to tighter scrutiny, a senior German official suggested a deal could be weeks away. The summit, which begins Thursday night, has been described as do-or-die for the 17 countries that use the euro. A growing number of eurozone economies are being dragged down by crippling debts.

#### Rapid retreat of Chile glacier captured in images

**SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)**—Researchers in Chile released a series of time-lapse photos Wednesday showing the dramatic retreat of a glacier in Patagonia. The Jorge Montt Glacier is shrinking faster than any other in Chile, with its snout retreating 1 kilometer (more than a half mile) between February 2010 and January 2011, glaciologist Andres Rivera said. Rivera said that global warming is a factor and that the glacier also is melting especially quickly because it partly rests in the waters of a deep fjord.

#### Police investigate item sent to Deutsche Bank CEO

**FRANKFURT (AP)**—Police are investigating what they described as a "suspicious delivery" addressed to Deutsche Bank chief executive Josef Ackermann, the bank said Wednesday. Deutsche Bank spokesman Klaus Winker said police were alerted when the package was detected in the mailroom of the bank's headquarters among the cluster of skyscrapers that make up downtown Frankfurt am Main. Frankfurt police confirmed a "suspicious item" was found among incoming mail at the headquarters around midday Wednesday, but refused to give any further details pending the outcome of an investigation into the package's contents.



# Off The Wall

## Michigan gives thumbs-down to Wisconsin mitten campaign

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Michigan and Wisconsin have thrown off the gloves and are engaged in hand-to-hand combat in a debate over which of them looks more like a mitten.

“Hey, Wisconsin, get real!! The Mitten is ours!!” tweeted one Michigan resident upset the state across Lake Michigan is trying to usurp a shape so iconic it can be picked out by orbiting spaceships. Noted another, “Only one state has Mitten Mojo!”

Alex Beaton of the Awesome Mitten website spotted the knit mitten shaped like Wisconsin on the Travel Wisconsin website this week and kicked off the bare-knuckled offensive against what she saw as a mitten impostor.

“People in Michigan, we do identify ourselves so closely with the Mitten State,” Beaton said of the state’s Lower Peninsula. “We’re America’s high five!”

But Tom Lyons, who works in public relations in Neenah, Wis., said Michigan residents shouldn’t be getting their yarn in a twist over Wisconsin’s mitten theme for its winter tourism campaign.

“Wisconsin is the left mitten. Michigan is the right mitten. Even children know that one mitten doesn’t cut it when it comes to Midwest winters,” he said. Lyons formerly worked in Door County—Wisconsin’s thumb region—and said he often holds up his left hand when locating state places for others.

“We complement each other and it’s not our fault that their thumb is smaller,” he said, taking a lighthearted jab at Wisconsin’s neighbor across Lake Michigan. “We’re very similar and they should be flattered.”



In this photo provided by the subject Tom Lyons, who works in public relations, uses his hand to show Neenah, Wis., where he lives on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, in Neenah.

Michigan residents have long held up a hand to show where they live, even getting both hands into play if they want to show the Lower and Upper peninsulas. Under former Gov. Jennifer Granholm, the state hired Michigan-based actor and playwright Jeff Daniels to promote the state’s business opportunities by telling companies to come to Michigan and “give your company the Upper Hand.”

Terri O’Brien and Lisa Burnia sell “Don’t Mess with the Mitten” sweat shirts and T-shirts online and in southeast Michigan stores, and “M is for Mitten” is a popular children’s book in the state. In west Michigan, there’s the Wet Mitten Surf Shop in Grand Haven and Traverse City and the Mitten Bar in Ludington, a city connected by a summer car ferry to Manitowoc, Wis.

Wisconsin Department of Tourism spokeswoman Lisa Marshall said the intent of using

a mitten shaped like the state for the winter tourism campaign wasn’t to step on Michigan’s toes—or fingers.

“We’re not the mitten state. Michigan, they can own that. We want to be known as the fun state,” she said. The department used a leaf shaped like Wisconsin for its fall tourism campaign and will move onto something new for spring, but for now, the mitten stays.

Dave Lorenz, manager of public and industry relations at Travel Michigan, said he was a little surprised by how many people have expressed dismay over Wisconsin’s mitten. But he understands the feeling, especially after Wisconsin beat Michigan State Saturday in the inaugural Big Ten football championship game.

“We’re not going to take this lying down,” he said. “Wisconsin already took the Rose Bowl from us this year. They’re not going to take the Mitten State status from us.”

### NY boy’s message in bottle retrieved in the Azores

BROCKPORT, N.Y. (AP)—A 10-year-old upstate New York boy’s message in a bottle dropped in the Atlantic as part of a school project has been retrieved across the ocean in the Azores. Curtis Kipple of Adams Basin, west of Rochester, wrote a letter in March along with his fellow fourth graders at the Fred W. Hill School in Brockport. The bottles were dropped into the Gulf Stream, 30 miles off shore, by a fisherman from North Carolina’s Outer Banks. The Democrat and Chronicle of Rochester reports (http://on.rocne.ws/uLXjPE) that the school received a return email this week from a tiny fishing village on the Azores archipelago off Portugal, about 2,600 miles from Brockport. The email said the bottle was found by a father and son out fishing.

### Report: Thieves target toilet paper at NM diner

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico restaurant employee says he’s now seen it all, after three men left his diner with rolls of toilet paper and were nabbed in the parking lot by police. Burgers, Dogs and Wings employee Josh Flannery-Stewart tells KOAT-TV (http://bit.ly/rtVXdL) in Albuquerque that he was immediately suspicious of the men when they came in Saturday because they weren’t talking and appeared “messed up.” The three went into the bathroom and emerged carrying about a dozen rolls of toilet paper. They got in a car in the parking lot, but didn’t get far. Albuquerque police apparently already had the trio under surveillance and quickly surrounded the car and arrested them. The toilet paper was returned to its rightful owner.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Woman slams dead raccoon against Vt. city building

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)—Police in Vermont say a woman who might have been angry about a dead raccoon left on a street took its bloody carcass to City Hall and angrily slammed it against the building’s doors. Burlington police say the woman left the raccoon’s body outside City Hall before walking off one morning two weeks ago. Witnesses have told the Burlington Free Press the animal might have been hit on a nearby street and that the woman might have been upset no one from the city had come to collect it. Police say the woman faces a possible vandalism charge. They also say her actions created a public health hazard. They’re seeking the public’s help in identifying the woman and have released a description and surveillance photo of her.

# Science & Technology

## REVIEW

## Gift guide to e-readers, tablets, \$99-\$500

NEW YORK (AP)—Flat, hard packages will be welcome this year. Tablet computers are extremely popular, and electronic reading devices such as the Kindle have matured and come down in price.

Which one to get? That’s mostly a matter of your budget. The iPad and other full-blown tablets are more expensive, but they do virtually everything better. Consider pooling money from friends or family for a better device.

If you have more than \$300 to spend, go for one of these full-size tablets. They have color screens that are about 9 inches diagonally, and they have built-in cameras:

### Apple iPad 2 (\$499)

The device that made tablet computing mainstream still reigns, outselling all others combined. It’s thinner than competing tablets and has access to an unparalleled array of applications: half a million, of which 140,000 are adapted for the iPad’s 9.7-inch screen.

That means more good games, more useful reference apps and more entertainment options. The range of third-party book apps also means the iPad beats dedicated e-readers at their own game by giving users the ability to read books purchased from any store. The large screen displays documents comfortably.

The basic model has 16 gigabytes of memory. More expensive versions have more memory and can also be bought with built-in access to AT&T’s or Verizon’s cellular network. Cellular service comes with a separate monthly fee of \$15 and up, but there’s no contract requirement, so your gift won’t burden a loved-one with a big financial commitment.

### Sony Tablet S (\$500)

There are a slew of tablets from Samsung, Sony, LG and other manufacturers built around Google Inc.’s Android software. From a hardware standpoint, they’re not much different from the iPad, through most of them are thicker, and they’re available in a range of sizes.

The Tablet S stands out by including an infrared emitter, which makes it usable as a large universal remote control. It also plays some PlayStation games.

It has a 9.4-inch screen, slightly smaller than the iPad’s. It runs the latest version of Android, which is specially designed for tablets and is slick. But the selection of third-party applications doesn’t match the iPad’s in quantity or quality.

### Asus Eee Pad Transformer (\$389)

The Transformer is a reasonably priced Android tablet that doubles as a “netbook,” or small laptop, if you buy an accessory keyboard dock for \$109. You can get an accessory keyboard for any tablet, but the Transformer’s attaches securely, and the combination folds up like a laptop. The keyboard has a touchpad, extra ports and an additional power pack, which prolongs battery life.

The keyboard makes this tablet a good choice for those who want to write a lot or just want the familiar feel of a keyboard and touchpad. Other tablets are typically better for reading and viewing content, not creating it. A new version is due out Dec. 15. It will start at \$499 and will have a faster processor and a body that’s as thin as the iPad’s.

If you only want to spend \$200 to \$250, go for one of these e-reader/tablet hybrids. They add movies, games and other applications to the e-reader’s capabilities, so they’re not just for bookworms.

They have 7-inch screens, slightly less than half the size of the iPad’s screen. (Don’t be fooled by the 7-inch to 9.7-inch comparison, which makes it sound like the Kindle’s screen is only slightly smaller than the iPad’s. The difference in area is much larger than the difference in the diagonal measurement.)

### Amazon Kindle Fire (\$199)

The Fire is Amazon’s first color Kindle. It runs a highly modified, user-friendly version of Android. The selection of apps is smaller than for other Android tablets, however. Notable inclusions are Netflix, Hulu and Comixology, a comic-book reader.

The Fire also streams a selection of movies for free to Amazon Prime subscribers, and you can buy movies for download.

Amazon had to jettison some standard tablet features, such as a camera and a microphone, to keep the price low. The Fire has only 8 gigabytes of memory, which can’t be expanded. Magazines don’t translate well to the smaller screen.

### Barnes & Noble Nook Tablet (\$249)

The bookstore’s answer to the Kindle Fire is an updated version of last year’s Nook Color, a solid and successful e-reader. The Tablet has more memory than the Color or the Kindle Fire, and you can add even more.

Barnes & Noble’s app store

has a smaller section than Amazon’s, but it does have Netflix and Hulu. Barnes & Noble allows books from other bookstores to be read, while Amazon doesn’t. However, there’s no video store yet, so you can’t download movies for offline viewing, as you can with the Fire or larger tablets such as the iPad.

The older Nook Color is still available for \$50 less. It has less memory and a slower processor, but otherwise does the same job as the Tablet.

If your budget is limited to \$150, you’ll be tempted by some low-end color tablets. But giving one away is like giving away a lump of coal: The color touch screens that go into sub-\$200 devices look bad and have problems responding to fingers.

Instead, get one of these lightweight, quality e-readers with black-and-white “electronic ink” screens for the bookworm in your life:

### Amazon Kindle Touch 3G (\$149)

Amazon still has a variety of monochrome Kindles, including its first touch-screen model. The screen is more legible than color screens in bright daylight and uses very little power. But it’s slow to respond, making navigation tedious. The lack of color takes the joy out of children’s books, magazines and comics. The device’s touch sensitivity does make navigation easier.

The 3G version comes with access to AT&T’s cellular network, with no monthly fees. That makes it a good gift for someone who travels a lot or doesn’t have Internet access at home.

For \$149, this model comes with screensavers that display ads for cars, beauty products, Amazon gift cards and so forth. Pay another \$40 to get rid of those. You can go the other way and save \$50 by getting a non-3G version.

### Barnes & Noble Nook Simple Touch (\$99)

This slim, light e-reader is very similar to the \$99 non-3G Kindle Touch. Barnes & Noble’s version has two advantages: It doesn’t display advertising, and it can load books from other bookstores, including Google Books. It can’t load Kindle books, though.

A postscript: None of these devices come with a case, and they all need one for protection. Consider including one if you want to be extra thoughtful. If you can’t afford it, you can always say that the choice of a case is a matter of taste best left to the new owner



# Life & Style

## 'M-A-S-H' star Harry Morgan dies at age 96

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Harry Morgan never planned to be an actor, yet he spent 10 years on one of the top TV series of all time, made 50 films and appeared on Broadway. He became one of the best-known character actors in Hollywood.

But it was Morgan's portrayal of the fatherly Col. Sherman Potter on "M-A-S-H" for which Morgan became most famous, and he knew it.

"M-A-S-H was so damned good," Morgan told The Associated Press. "I didn't think they could keep the level so high."

His wry humor, which helped net him an Emmy for the CBS-TV hit, carried onto the show.

"He was an imp," said Mike Farrell, who starred as B.J. Hunnicutt in "M-A-S-H" along with Morgan and Alan Alda. "As Alan once said, there's not an un-adorable bone in the man's body. He was full of fun, and he was smart as a whip."

Morgan died Wednesday at age 96 at his Brentwood home after having pneumonia, his daughter-in-law, Beth Morgan, told AP.

"He was side-splittingly funny, a very gentle and loving father-in-law," Beth Morgan said. "He was very humble about having such a successful career."

Morgan appeared in mostly supporting roles on the big screen, playing opposite such stars as Henry Fonda, John Wayne, James Garner, Elvis Presley and Dan Aykroyd.

On television, he was more the comedic co-star, including roles on "December Bride," its spin-off "Pete and Gladys," as Sgt. Joe Friday's loyal partner in later "Dragnet" episodes and on CBS-TV's long-running "M-A-S-H" series, for which he earned an Emmy award in 1980.

Yet acting wasn't Morgan's first career choice.

Born in Detroit in 1915, Morgan was studying pre-law at the University of Chicago when



In this 1976 handout photo, Harry Morgan poses on the set of his television show "MASH." The Emmy-winning character actor whose portrayal of the fatherly Col. Potter on television's "M\*A\*S\*H" highlighted a show business career that included nine other TV series, 50 films and the Broadway stage, died Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011.

public speaking classes sparked his interest in the stage. Before long, he was working with a little theater group in Washington, D.C., followed by a two-year stint on Broadway in the original production of "Golden Boy," with Karl Malden and Lee J. Cobb.

Morgan made his way to Hollywood in

1942 "without any assurance that I would find work," he said in a 1976 interview with The AP.

"I didn't have enough money to go back East, so I stayed around finding jobs mainly out of friendships."

He signed a contract with 20th Century Fox after a talent scout spotted him in the one-act play, "Hello, Out There."

One of his earliest films was "The Ox Bow Incident" in 1943 with Fonda. Other films included: "High Noon," "What Price Glory," "Support Your Local Sheriff," "The Apple Dumpling Gang" and "The Shootist."

Morgan began his television career in 1954 when the medium was in its infancy.

"Television allowed me to kick the Hollywood habit of typing an actor in certain roles," Morgan said, referring to his typical sidekick or sheriff portrayals on the big screen.

In "December Bride," his first TV series, Morgan played Pete Porter, a perpetually henpecked neighbor. The CBS series lasted from 1954-1959, when he went on to star in his own series, "Pete and Gladys," a spinoff of "December Bride."

Demonstrating his diversity as a character actor and comedian, Morgan also starred in "The Richard Boone Show," "Kentucky Jones" and "Dragnet."

His acting career didn't stop after "M-A-S-H" left the air in 1983 after 11 years—one of television's most successful primetime runs. Morgan went on to appear in several made-for-TV movies and other television series, such as "AfterMASH" and "Blackie's Magic."

When he was not on the set, Morgan enjoyed reading books about the legal profession and poetry. He also liked horses, which he once raised on his Northern California ranch.

Morgan is survived by three sons, Charles, Paul and Christopher; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

No services have yet been planned.

## 'MythBusters' cannonball rips through house, van

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Zany experiments testing scientific theories in real-world settings have earned the TV show "MythBusters" a devoted following, but a stunt gone awry met with an unhappy audience when an errant cannonball went shooting through a California family's bedroom.

Sheriff's deputies are still measuring how, exactly, the cannonball flew from a bomb range in the rolling hills flanking a suburban San Francisco Bay area neighborhood and rocketed into the front door of a home and through its master bedroom before landing in a neighbor's parked minivan.

Hosts for the Discovery Channel show fired the cannonball Tuesday as they filmed an episode testing whether other types of projectiles shot from a cannon would pick up the same speed and have the same impact as the steel ball. Later, the production team plans to film flying stone cannonballs at a rock quarry in Northern California.

Instead of hitting a string of water-filled garbage cans, however, the cannonball passed over the barrels, crashed straight through a protective cinderblock



"Mythbusters" stars Adam Savage, right, and Jamie Hyneman speak to the media outside the home damaged by an errant cannonball fired during a filming of an episode of their show, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011 in Dublin, Calif.

wall and careened off the hill behind it, said Alameda County Sheriff's Department spokesman J.D. Nelson.

"It missed the target and took kind of an oddball bounce," Nelson said. "It was almost like skipping a rock on a lake. Instead of burying it into the hill it just went skyward."

No one was injured, and the home's residents didn't even wake up until the broken dry-wall settled on top of them, Nelson said.

The show's co-hosts planned to go to the neighborhood to speak with those affected Wednesday afternoon, and a meeting was called with the entire production staff to understand what went wrong.

"We are really, really grateful and glad that no one was hurt," co-host and executive producer Adam Savage said in an interview. "Discovery is committed to making this right and making sure that everything that has been damaged is as good or bet-

ter as before this started."

Producers have used the cannon they built at the county's bomb range, which is tucked in a valley in the suburb of Dublin, more than 50 times without incident, said Nelson, the department's liaison to the show.

Once it was launched, the cannonball traveled about 650 yards, bounced in front of the home, then tore through the front door and exited through a wall on the back of the house.

The projectile then bounced at least once more and crossed the road before smashing the window and dashboard of a gold minivan, where it came to rest.

Jasbir Gill, who owns the minivan, said he and his children had just gotten home.

"It's scary," Gill told the Contra Costa Times (<http://bit.ly/umCZnD>). "I was in the van five minutes before this happened."

"Mythbusters," which is produced for Discovery Channel by the San Francisco-based Beyond Productions, issued a statement through publicist Katherine Nelson on Wednesday saying all proper safety protocol had been observed.

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Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Halle Berry, Robert De Niro, Ashton Kutcher  
Comedy drama • Rated PG13

#### Synopsis

Director Garry Marshall follows up his surprise hit Valentine's Day with this all-star ensemble film featuring a cast that includes Robert De Niro, Michelle Pfeiffer, Hilary Swank, and Ashton Kutcher.



#### The Sitter

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Jonah Hill, Sam Rockwell, Ari Graynor  
Comedy • Rated R

#### Synopsis

A college dropout becomes a babysitter to make some quick cash, and takes his three young charges on an epic urban adventure in this comedy from director David Gordon Green (George Washington, Pineapple Express). Noah (Jonah Hill) isn't a babysitter, but he'll do just about anything for a little extra cash in his wallet.



#### Arthur Christmas

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

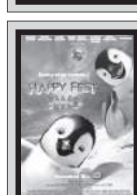
James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie  
Comedy • Rated PG



#### Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 1

Friday		4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart  
Fantasy • Rated PG 13



#### Happy Feet Two

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Elijah Wood, Robin Williams  
Children's/family • Rated PG



#### The Muppets

Friday		4:20		
Saturday	1:20	4:20		
Sunday	1:20	4:20		
Monday thru Thursday		4:20		

Jason Segel, Amy Adams  
Children's/family, Comedy • Rated PG



#### Immortals

Friday		7:20	9:40
Saturday		7:20	9:40
Sunday		7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		7:20	

Henry Cavill, Mickey Rourke, Freida Pinto  
Epic • Rated R



#### Jack and Jill

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Adam Sandler, Katie Holmes  
Comedy • Rated PG

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# Walters said Syrian trip frightened her

**NEW YORK (AP)**—President Bashar Assad's first interview with a Western television journalist since a March uprising was a coup for Barbara Walters and ABC News, but not entirely for Assad.

In excerpts aired by ABC Wednesday, Assad denied ordering a violent crackdown on residents and denounced the United Nations when Walters asked about the U.N.'s claim that there had been widespread killings and torture of protesters in Syria.

Walters confronted Assad with pictures of civilians brutalized by his regime. When she asked him on camera about the torture of children, he said, "I don't believe you."

She talked on Wednesday of Assad's "disconnect" with what is going on within his country and his own role, an attitude that may have extended to her discussions with him in his Presidential Palace.

"He was very happy with the interview," she said "He likes the confrontation. He likes the tough questions. When it was over, he smiled and thanked me and he was happy. I don't know if it did him any good."

Walters said in an interview that she was apprehensive about going to Syria because the U.S. government had warned her not to leave her hotel room. Adding to the concern, a Jordanian airline booked for the last leg of her trip delayed its flight because it did not want its pilot to



In this undated image provided by ABC, Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad poses with ABC News Anchor Barbara Walters for an interview airing Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, on ABC.

stay in Syria overnight.

But her fears dissipated by the time she arrived in Damascus from an airport about 18 miles away. She even wandered through some outdoor markets and talked to people, although she was accompanied by a government minder.

Walters said she had met Assad twice before, which cut down any fear she may have had of him. While in the Middle East several years ago, she said Assad's wife called and asked Walters for an off-the-record meeting with the couple in Damascus. Walters

also traveled to Syria three years ago, hoping for an interview, but it didn't happen.

She thought this interview wouldn't happen, either, after Assad canceled one get-together two weeks ago, presumably because it was to happen around the time the Arab League was condemning Syria. Then word came that Assad was willing to talk.

Assad hand-picked Walters for the interview.

"I can't tell you why he requested me," she said. "I can only tell you that I have met him twice before."

ABC News, under its new division president Ben Sherwood, has made news-making interviews a priority. Within the past year, "World News" anchor Diane Sawyer has interviewed Jaycee Dugard and Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, and "This Week" host Christiane Amanpour talked with former Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak and late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

Sawyer and Amanpour are more closely identified with breaking news; Walters, as co-host of "The View," a daytime talk show largely for women, is seen more in terms of entertainment than news, despite her long and laudatory history as news reporter, anchor and interviewer.

She may not have been the obvious choice for the Assad interview. When ABC seeks newsmaking interviews, it generally offers prospective subjects a choice of potential interviewees.

One critic, Affen Chowdhry of the Toronto Globe and Mail, wrote Wednesday that if the Syrian government had expected a "soft" Walters interview of the type reserved for movie and pop stars, "it ended up getting something very different."

When ABC arrived in Damascus, an Assad aide first said that government cameras would be used to record the interview, but Walters rejected this. Two Assad assistants also asked for the right to look at the tape after the interview. ABC refused.

# Dad's girlfriend loses sleep over boy's attraction to guns

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently met a man I love dearly, but I don't agree with the toys he buys for his 10-year-old son, "Dale." The boy plays violent video games and is obsessed with guns to the point that we can't leave the house without him bringing a toy gun along. The video games he plays (unsupervised) are violent and gory and rated M (17 and over).

Dale is not mature for his age.

In fact, he often whines when he doesn't get his way. He's allowed on the Internet without supervision, and I have walked in and caught him surfing naughty pictures. When I told his dad, he laughed and said, "Boys will be boys!"

Abby, I'm afraid for my 6-year-old daughter. A few weeks ago, Dale decided he wanted to play "good guys/bad guys" with her. When he grabbed my daughter in a choke hold and held a toy gun to her head, she became hysterical. I have since had nightmares that Dale will find a real gun, think it's one of his play guns and shoot my daughter.

I think Dale's obsession is unhealthy, and I don't think it's healthy for my daughter to be around him. How do I handle this with my boyfriend? I love him and would like to spend the rest of my life with him, but I cannot marry him at the expense of my daughter.

PARANOID AND PERPLEXED

**DEAR PARANOID AND PERPLEXED:** How did your boyfriend handle the "good guys/bad guys" incident when you brought it to his attention? The answer to that question will provide you with insight into his ability to parent his son, and what your and your daughter's future will be like if you marry him. If his reaction wasn't to your satisfaction, then you must place your child's safety above your heart's desire, and you have assessed the situation correctly.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a divorced, childless, independent and financially secure woman. I live happily in my upscale apartment.

How do I respond to family members, co-workers and friends who constantly ask, "Why don't you buy a house and quit throwing your money away paying rent?"

I don't want to buy a house and be tied to a 30-year mortgage. I'm perfectly happy the way things are. What is a proper response to those questions? Saying, "I don't want to" hasn't been enough.

HAPPY RENTER IN HOUSTON

**DEAR HAPPY RENTER:** The responsibilities of home ownership aren't for everyone, and many individuals have realized it as bills for plumbers, electricians, roofers, insurance and property taxes mounted up. You might mention that to the inquirers, although your response to your well-meaning friends, relatives and co-workers should have been sufficient. A way to change the subject would be to say, "Now, let's talk about something else."

**DEAR ABBY:** My 22-year-old son told me he had a fight with his girlfriend. Am I allowed to ask him what it was about, or if they have resolved the problem?

CURIOUS MOM IN MONTANA

**DEAR CURIOUS MOM:** When your son mentioned the spat, that would have been the logical time to ask what it was about. If you start probing now—after the fact—it could be construed as nosiness. If he's still seeing the girlfriend, it's safe to assume the problem was resolved—so keep your mouth shut, your eyes open and let him solve his relationship issues without involving yourself in them.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

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# Tom Cruise's mission in Dubai stunts: Not falling

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)**—Tom Cruise may seem larger than life on-screen. But when it came to stunts on the side of the world's tallest tower, his thoughts were definitely down to earth.

Asked Wednesday about his biggest fear during scenes outside the half-mile (828-meter) high Burj Khalifa, Cruise was quick with an answer: "Falling."

The actor is in Dubai for the world premier of "Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol" at the city's annual film festival.

Cruise said filmmakers had to monitor temperatures on the spire's sun-baked facade so he wouldn't get burned. That wasn't the only challenge. The actor says he didn't anticipate the cross winds.

"I had to figure out, actually, how to fly," he told reporters on the 124th floor observation area of the Burj Khalifa, which rises dozens of stories higher. "I had to figure out how to use



From left to right: Brad Pitt, Tom Cruise, Paula Patton and Simon Pegg arrive on the red carpet during the opening night of the 8th Dubai International Film festival for a Gala screening of their film Mission Impossible Ghost Protocol in Dubai, United Arab Emirates Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011.

my feet as a rudder ... The first couple of times I was slamming into the building."

Cruise said he spent months training on a four-story structure to practice his moves on the Burj. Most of the shots on the actual building were done in

the shade to protect Cruise from high temperatures, as the facade heated up in sunlight.

His first thought as he launched outside the building for the first time? "I hope I don't fall," he said.

Cruise said his wife Katie

# Joel Grey sticks with 'Anything Goes' until April

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Joel Grey and Sutton Foster will be together on Broadway until spring.

Producers of "Anything Goes" said Wednesday that Grey, who plays the gangster Moonface Martin, has signed on to extend his run opposite Foster's Reno Sweeney in the

Cole Porter romp.

The show with both original leads in place is scheduled to run through April 29 at the Stephen Sondheim Theater on 43rd Street.

The silly musical about a crazy group of people who find themselves on a ship

crossing the Atlantic features most of Porter's best songs, including "You're the Top," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "Blow, Gabriel, Blow" and "Anything Goes."

The production won three Tony Awards, including best musical revival.

# Baldwin apologizes to passengers, not airline

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Alec Baldwin has issued an apology to fellow passengers on an American Airlines flight that was delayed by his refusal to stop playing a cellphone game.

The "30 Rock" actor's note, posted to the Huffington Post (<http://huff.to/sENHR2>) Wednesday, didn't apologize to the airline or the flight attendant involved in the Tuesday incident.

Instead, Baldwin said he's aware that airlines struggle financially but the result is that air travel has devolved into an inelegant experience post-9/11.

Baldwin says he was singled out by a female flight attendant while other passengers continued to use their cell phones.

Earlier Wednesday, American issued a statement that Baldwin was asked to leave the plane after refusing to turn off the phone, violating the fasten seatbelt light and going into a bathroom and slamming the door.







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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**  
The Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA) is the community-based cancer support organization for the Northern Mariana Islands dedicated to eliminating cancer and saving lives by providing Advocacy, Awareness, Education, Services and HOPE for all its constituents

CCA is a non-profit organization managed by a 7 member Board of Directors who represents the diversity of the CNMI, CCA's operational funding is fully supported by contributions from corporations, families and individuals.

**Position Description: Program Manager**

As a Program Manager you will serve as an advocate for the CCA, supporting the CCA's mission and helping the organization better communicate who we are and what we do for the people who need us most. Eligible candidates need qualifications enabling them to fulfill the following key responsibilities:

- Manage budget and comply with stringent guidelines for program services offered to cancer patients and constituents
- Coordinate and collaborate with the Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands CNMI Representative and the CNMI Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (CCCC) and effectively collaborate with the Program Manager to advocate and further our mission goals
- Develop, manage and grow revenue goals through multiple, fundraising events and collateral sales
- Assist the Event Chairperson(s) and participate in efficiently carrying out our signature fundraising event the "Marianas March Against Cancer", by attending Organization Committee and Team Captain meetings
- Mobilize and coordinate a CNMI community-wide volunteer working committee to implement the CNMI CCCC
- Develop and cultivate community partnerships/relationships and participate in appropriate coalitions
- Prepare/disseminate reports and publications such as an annual report, weekly performance report, bulletins, brochures, flyers, and various other promotional and educational cancer-related materials
- Assertively promote CCA Advocacy, initiatives, education and services to schools, worksites and community leaders to effectively build broad based support for our mission
- Seek monetary and in-kind donations from our business, community, private/public grants and endowments through direct solicitation, grant application and or bartering of goods and services
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- Plan ahead and always anticipate what is wanted and needed and be out in front in seeing that we meet our goals and responsibilities to the community.

**Qualifications and Position Requirements:**

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- Must be a team player who can effectively work and interact with volunteers and the public
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- Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite more specifically MS Publisher, Adobe Photoshop or comparable software, database and spreadsheet management, e-mail software and Internet browsers
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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff,  
-v-  
MARIANO S. NAPUTI, Defendant.

**SEVENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 3, 2006, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 334, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 08, the original of which was recorded May 14, 1990, as document No. 90-1905, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 30, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

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# Sandusky jailed on new child sex abuse charges

**S T A T E COLLEGE, Pa.** (AP)—Ex-Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky was jailed Wednesday after new child sex abuse charges were filed against him based on the claims of new two accusers, one of whom says he screamed in vain for help while Sandusky attacked him in a basement bedroom.

The latest accusers are the ninth and 10th described as victims in grand jury reports that claim Sandusky befriended and then molested boys he met through his charity for troubled youths, The Second Mile. A grand jury document released Wednesday echoed an earlier report, saying Sandusky gave the boys gifts while making advances on them.

One of the new accusers said Sandusky kept him in a basement bedroom during overnight visits to Sandusky's home, forced him to perform oral sex and attempted on at least 16 occasions to anally penetrate him, sometimes successfully.

"The victim testified that on at least one occasion he screamed for help, knowing that Sandusky's wife was upstairs, but no one ever came to help him," the grand jury report said.

Sandusky now faces criminal accusations from 10 young men and more than 50 charges stemming from what authorities say were assaults over 15 years on boys in his home, on Penn State property and elsewhere. The scandal has provoked strong criticism that Penn State officials didn't do enough to stop Sandusky. The scandal prompted the ouster of Hall of Fame football coach Joe Paterno and

the school's longtime president, Graham Spanier.

Sandusky, 67, has said repeatedly that he is innocent and has vowed to fight the case. In interviews with NBC and The New York Times, he said he showered and horsed around with boys but never sexually abused them. His lawyer, Joseph Amendola, said Wednesday that he had not read the latest grand jury report but had no reason to doubt Sandusky's claims of innocence.

Sandusky was wide-eyed and quiet during the arraignment in a cramped district magistrate's office outside the small town of Bellefonte. He could not immediately pay \$250,000 cash bail and was driven to Centre County jail by agents from the state attorney general's office.

He had been arrested at his home, handcuffed behind his back and driven to court wearing a blue and white Penn State wrestling jacket and matching sweat pants.

After the hearing, Sandusky avoided eye contact and did not speak to about two dozen reporters and photographers waiting before authorities placed him in the back of a sedan that would shuttle him to jail.

The new accusers, who contacted officials after Sandusky's initial arrest on Nov. 5, told the grand jury they met him through the charity he founded in 1977.

"I took it at first he was just a nice guy, like he went to church every weekend, his kids would come over every once in a while and stuff. And after a while, like, he got used to me and stuff and started getting further and further, wanting—to touchy feely," the ninth accuser, who is now 18 years old, told the grand jury.

He said he was 11 or 12 when



Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, right, leaves the office of Centre County District Justice Daniel A. Hoffman under escort by Pennsylvania State Police and Attorney General's Office officials in Bellefonte, Pa., on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2011.

he first met Sandusky in 2004 and Sandusky took him to Penn State football games, gave him gifts and money and sexually assaulted him for years, according to the grand jury report.

The 10th accuser told the grand jury he was referred by a counselor to The Second Mile in 1997, when he was 10 and experiencing problems at home.

He also attended Penn State games with Sandusky, spent time at Sandusky's house and was subjected in the basement to "wrestling sessions" that led to Sandusky performing oral sex on him, the report said. The accuser also detailed being molested in a pool on the Penn State

campus and a time when he said Sandusky exposed himself in a car while driving and requested oral sex from him.

The boy refused, and after Sandusky expressed his displeasure, the boy told his foster mother he didn't want to see Sandusky any more, the report said.

The grand jury report did not say whether the boys told anyone else about the assaults before testifying.

Amendola, asked what he told Sandusky during the arraignment, said he warned his client to be prepared for things to get worse.

"Jerry's scratching his head

saying, 'What's next?'" Amendola said. "I said, 'Don't ask that question. Don't ask, 'Can it get worse?' because it can.' We just have to be prepared for whatever else comes down the road. And we will be."

Asked how Sandusky is dealing with the accusations, Amendola said, "How would you take it if you were facing the kind of charges he was facing and your life's work was helping kids? You would be devastated."

Sandusky, who thought he would succeed Paterno as Penn State's head coach, retired from the team after the 1999 season.

Lawyers Andrew Shubin and Justine Andronici, who

say they have been representing and advising accusers, said the additional charges were to be expected.

"Through our investigation, we have found that Jerry Sandusky is a serial predator who has victimized many people over the course of decades," Shubin said in a statement. "Victims, many of whom have kept silent about Jerry Sandusky's abuse for years, are now gaining the strength to come forward and speak about what has happened to them."

Amendola said he believes that Sandusky will be able to post bail. If he does, he will have to wear an electronic monitor, which Amendola said would be the equivalent to house arrest.

Sandusky also was to have no contact with accusers or witnesses in the case and have no unsupervised contact with minors.

Prosecutors had sought \$1 million in bail.

The bail and conditions ordered Wednesday by Senior Magisterial District Judge Robert E. Scott were in contrast to the \$100,000 unsecured bail Sandusky was granted last month.

The new charges include four counts of involuntary deviate sexual intercourse and two counts of unlawful contact with a minor, all of them first-degree felonies punishable by up to 20 years in prison and \$25,000 in fines. Sandusky also was charged Wednesday with three third-degree felony counts and three first-degree misdemeanor counts.

A preliminary hearing on the latest charges was scheduled for Tuesday, the same day as a hearing on the previous charges.

## 9 years later, SU accuser's abuse claim believed



**S Y R A - CUSE, N.Y.** (AP)—Over the course of nine years, former ball-

boy Bobby Davis told his story of sexual abuse at the hands of Syracuse University assistant basketball coach Bernie Fine to the police, the college, the local newspaper and a national TV network. Each time, either he was too late or his story couldn't be proved.

When he went public again last month, he was maligned by Hall of Fame coach Jim Boeheim as an opportunist and a liar.

On Wednesday, a top law enforcement official became the first to say publicly he believed Davis was a victim and Fine had abused him.

At his news conference to explain that the statute of limitations would keep him from conducting an investigation, Onondaga County District Attorney William Fitzpatrick addressed Davis directly.

"Bobby, I'm sorry it took so long," he said. "I wish I had met you as a prosecutor in 2002. Even more importantly, I wish I had met you as a prosecutor back in the 1980s. We wouldn't be here today."

Davis, his stepbrother Michael Lang and a third man, Zach Tomaselli, of Lewiston, Maine, say Fine preyed on them when they were boys.

The statute of limitations expired five years after Davis and Lang say they were molested. But the federal statute of limitations in place in 2002, when Tomaselli says he was abused by Fine in a Pittsburgh hotel room, allowed a victim to bring charges until he was 25; Tomaselli is 23.

Fitzpatrick, however, said school and travel records may undercut Tomaselli's account that Fine molested him in a Pittsburgh hotel room in 2002.

Fine's lawyers, Donald Martin and Karl Sleight, said in a statement that it appears "that there is proof that Tomaselli fabricated this allegation."

Tomaselli's phone rang unanswered Wednesday.

Tomaselli also is charged in Maine with molesting a teenage boy and said this week that he'll plead guilty.

The 65-year-old Fine, who had been Boeheim's top assistant since 1976, has adamantly denied wrongdoing.

The U.S. attorney's office is investigating and has seized computers, cameras, phones and records during searches of his office, home and locker.

Even with the support of the district attorney, neither Lang nor Davis can bring civil action against Fine.

The statute of limitations in New York on bringing a civil suit for child sexual abuse is five years after the victim turns 18. New York lawmakers are again considering a measure to lift it or open a one-year window for older incidents that, if approved, would open the way for a civil suit by Davis or Lang.

Davis went to the Syracuse Post-Standard newspaper in

2002 and ESPN in 2003; neither media outlet could corroborate his claims. He went to the police, too, in 2002, and a detective told him the statute of limitations had expired. Three years later, he went to the university; Syracuse had its lawyers do an internal investigation and says it, too, couldn't verify Davis' accusations.

Then, on Nov. 17, with the country still caught up in the child sex abuse scandal at Penn State, where a former assistant football coach is accused of molesting 10 boys, Davis came forward on ESPN. Lang came forward. Ten days later, Tomaselli spoke out. That day, Nov. 27, ESPN aired a tape in which a woman it identified as Fine's wife tells Davis she knew "everything" that was going on.

The university fired Fine that day.

Fitzpatrick called the tape "devastating."

When the news broke on Nov. 17, Boeheim vehemently defended his longtime friend

and assistant and said the accusations were lies to make money in the wake of the Penn State scandal. Victim advocates reacted angrily and called for Boeheim to resign or be fired. He later backtracked and said he was wrong to question the motives of the accusers.

Fitzpatrick said Fine hurt not only Davis and Lang but Boeheim and the university. "He let his friend go out and attack the victims, never once warning him they were telling the truth," Fitzpatrick said. "Then stood by and did nothing while that friend was vilified."

Repeated attempts by The Associated Press to contact Davis and Lang have been unsuccessful. Knocks on the doors of their two darkened houses were unanswered Wednesday after Fitzpatrick's statement.

A woman hanging Christmas lights outside the Fines' house said the couple are in Florida.

As Fitzpatrick called out Fine on Wednesday, he softened his once-sharp criticism of the police and university investigations and rebuked those who have called for the resignations

of Boeheim and university Chancellor Nancy Cantor. He said the case can't be compared to Penn State, where head football coach Joe Paterno and college administrators knew of the accusations against Jerry Sandusky, who maintains his innocence.

"It's not only inaccurate, it's not fair," he said.

Fitzpatrick laid the blame squarely on Fine.

"Hasn't Bernie Fine caused enough pain in this community?" Fitzpatrick said.

Fitzpatrick said his investigation started out to answer several questions, among them: Were Davis and Lang being truthful?

"On almost every single criteria, Bobby Davis came out as a credible person," the district attorney said. "Mike Lang also comes across as a credible person."

Fitzpatrick also directed personal comments to Lang at Wednesday's press conference.

"For Mike Lang, who still feels he could have done more to help his little brother: Mike, it's never too late to do the right thing," he said. "And let it be known by everybody in this room that you did just that: The right thing."



# Buehrle joins free-agent Marlins migration



**DALLAS**  
(AP)—It is the new image of

baseball's moneyed elite: For the second time in three days, the Miami Marlins walked up to the winter meetings podium to introduce a high-priced free agent while working doggedly behind the scenes to bring more sparkling stars to baseball's newest ballpark.

The Marlins, dominating the market under art dealer-owner Jeffrey Loria, increased their spending spree to \$191 million in less than a week, agreeing Wednesday to a \$58 million, four-year contract with left-hander Mark Buehrle just hours after finalizing a deal with All-Star shortstop Jose Reyes.

"Now how about three more?" new manager Ozzie Guillen said. "Hey, you shoot for the moon, just in case."

Quite a turnabout for a team that had the major leagues' lowest payroll in 2006.

"The minnows have become Marlins," agent Scott Boras said.

With Albert Pujols unwilling to accept their \$200 million-plus proposal, the if-you've-got-it-flaunt-it Marlins turned their attention to pitching in an effort to get off to a quick start in April at their \$515 million, retractable-roof stadium. It has never been clear that the three-time NL MVP, coming off his second World Series title in six seasons, would be willing to leave the St. Louis Cardinals.

"I'm hoping they keep the other animal in St. Louis," said former Marlins manager Fredi Gonzalez, now skipper of the NL East rival Atlanta Braves.

Marlins president David Samson said the team had withdrawn its offer to Pujols. And while the first baseman still had not announced a decision, there were other moves on the third day of the four-day session.

Colorado traded closer Huston Street to San Diego for a player to be named and cash, Minnesota finalized a \$4.75 million deal with closer Matt Capps and Pittsburgh completed agreements with left-hander Eric Bedard (\$4.5 million) and outfielder Nate McLouth (\$1.75 million). The Pirates also acquired infielder Yamaico Navarro from the Kansas City for a pair of minor leaguers.

San Francisco finalized a trade to obtain outfielder Angel Pagan and a player to be named or cash from the New York Mets for outfielder Andres Torres and right-hander Ramon Ramirez.

The New York Yankees, unusually quiet at the annual gathering, won negotiating rights to shortstop Hiroyuki Nakajima of the Seibu Lions in Japan's Pacific League. If they sign him within 30 days, they would pay the Lions a posting fee of about \$2 million.

In the evening, about two dozen free agents offered salary arbitration last month had to de-



In this July 25, 2011, file photo, Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Mark Buehrle delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers in Chicago. AP

cide whether to accept by the 11 p.m. CST deadline. Boston Red Sox designated hitter David Or-

tiz was expected to accept.

Texas general manager Jon Daniels sounded resigned to

losing ace C.J. Wilson, another pitcher Miami had pursued.

"I haven't received a call to

say he's chosen to go elsewhere, but we're prepared for that call," Daniels said.

## Marlins show Jose Reyes the love—and the money

**DALLAS** (AP)—Jose Reyes felt the love from the Miami Marlins. And the money.

When the free-agent signing period began last month, the Marlins wanted to meet the All-Star shortstop right away—as in not a minute to spare.

So owner Jeffrey Loria, team president David Samson and their top baseball officials arranged a midnight rendezvous with Reyes and his agent at a table outside Bemelmans Bar at The Carlyle, the New York hotel famous for hosting President John F. Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe a half-century ago.

"12:01. Those guys are crazy," Reyes said Wednesday, when his \$106 million, six-year contract was finalized. "They showed me a lot of love."

Reyes joined a team that suddenly aspires to be among baseball's big spenders. When the winter meetings began Monday, the Marlins finalized a \$27 million, three-year contract with closer Heath Bell.

A few hours after the Marlins introduced Reyes, manager Ozzie Guillen said the team had reached a deal with free-agent pitcher Mark Buehrle. And the week has been dominated by Miami's now-ended pursuit of three-time NL MVP Albert Pujols.

Leaving the cash-strapped New York Mets, who signed him when he was 16, Reyes accepted an offer that pays him \$10 million in each of the next

two seasons, \$16 million in 2014 and \$22 million in each of the final three years. Miami has a \$22 million option for 2018 with a \$4 million buyout, which could raise the total to \$124 million.

Reeling from three straight losing seasons, \$70 million in losses and a lawsuit seeking to recover money from their owners for the victims of the Bernard Madoff Ponzi scheme, the Mets never made a formal proposal to retain their first NL batting champion.

"They didn't make a real offer, so that means they don't want me there," Reyes said. "I need to move on."

After trading Francisco Rodriguez and Carlos Beltran, All-Stars are disappearing as fast from the Citi Field home clubhouse as spectators are from the stands. Reyes sounded hurt that the Mets made little effort to retain him.

"If you're asking whether I should have sent him a box of chocolates, perhaps I should have done that," general manager Sandy Alderson said. "But on the other hand, the box of chocolates would have cost \$106 million."

Wearing the new look of the Marlins—a cap with a blue, white, orange and yellow "M" with a swoosh that looks like it could be a logo for a fast food chain—Reyes' dreadlocks dangled onto the white jersey of the team, which was renamed

from the Florida Marlins as it prepares to move into its \$515 million downtown ballpark next season.

It appears as Reyes' bank account swells, his hair will shorten.

"We have team rules. Period," Loria said. "Everybody adheres to them."

Samson said he arrived at 11:56 p.m. for the initial meeting late on the night of Nov. 2 into Nov. 3.

"Jeffrey walked into the Hotel Carlyle with a long overcoat because it was about 12 degrees out, and under the overcoat was the Jose Reyes new Marlins jersey that had not been released yet," he said. "A few other people in the bar thought that this was some sort of strange, freaky show, because the owner of the team stood up and literally went like this, and underneath was Jose Reyes' jersey," Samson said, pulling apart his jacket by the lapels. "We then ordered some drinks and stayed around for a couple of hours just talking and getting to know each other, and a few days after that Jose came down to Miami and saw the ballpark. So 12:01 to us was always a big deal because we wanted to show Jose from the beginning that we had an idea."

A four-time All-Star, the 28-year-old Reyes hit .337 and also topped the league with 16 triples, while also stealing 39 bases. But hamstring injuries

have limited him to no more than 133 games in any of the last three years.

"It's a perfect situation in Miami," Reyes said. "We have a lot of talent there and the new stadium, the weather, close to Dominican, a lot of Spanish people there, so I think I'm going to like it and enjoy it as much as I can."

His arrival means All-Star shortstop Hanley Ramirez will have to move to third base. Loria said he spoke with him.

"It was an upbeat conversation. He's going to be a member of our team," the owner said.

Ramirez tried to shoot down speculation of a possible trade or refusal to switch positions.

"Crazy stuff going around," he wrote on Twitter. "I'm just relaxing with my family and getting mentally and physically strong and ready for next season."

For months, Reyes had been waiting for the Mets to make an offer. Alderson said Friday and early Saturday that he thought maybe some of the parameters he suggested could develop into an offer, but by Saturday night it was clear to him the Mets weren't willing to pay what was needed.

The realization of the switch dawned on Reyes on Sunday night, when agent Peter Greenberg accepted the Marlins' offer. Greenberg said Reyes' reaction was simple: "I'm a Fish."

After winning the 2003 World Series and then dismantling the roster because of a lack of revenue, Loria is collecting free agents like old masterpieces, trying to build a sound Miami machine with the funds provided by the new stadium and an expected boost in attendance.

Guillen and Buehrle were together on the Chicago White Sox this season, when the 32-year-old pitcher went 13-9 with a 3.59 ERA and won his third straight Gold Glove.

"This kid is special," Guillen said. "He pitched in the big scenarios, big moments, very tough city to pitch. When people love you in Chicago that means something."

Buehrle's deal is subject to a physical, which the sides were arranging.

Reyes, a four-time All-Star, finalized a \$106 million, six-year contract, two days after closer Heath Bell completed a \$27 million, three-year deal with the Marlins. Wanting to get started with talks right away, Loria and Marlins officials met Reyes and his agent just past midnight on Nov. 3, the start of the signing period, at a table outside Bemelmans Bar at The Carlyle hotel in New York.

"12:01. Those guys are crazy," Reyes said. "They showed me a lot of love."

The cash-strapped Mets, who signed him when he was 16, never made a formal offer.

"If you're asking whether I should have sent him a box of chocolates, perhaps I should have done that," general manager Sandy Alderson said. "But on the other hand, the box of chocolates would have cost \$106 million."



# Summer drug tests in, HGH unclear for NBA players

**NEW YORK (AP)**—NBA players have agreed to additional drug testing, adding offseason screening for performance-enhancing drugs only.

Union executive director Billy Hunter sent a memo Wednesday, obtained by The Associated Press, to players detailing these and other changes of a new labor deal and recommended they ratify the agreement.

Less clear is a provision for human growth hormone testing.

According to the memo, an NBA-NBPA joint committee would study the "possibility of an HGH testing program." NBA spokesman Mike Bass, however, insisted both sides agreed to HGH blood testing, subject to the process being validated by a "neutral committee of experts."

It wasn't immediately clear who would be on that panel.

Major League Baseball and its players recently agreed to start HGH testing in spring training. The NFL's new labor contract included a provision for HGH testing as soon as this season—but only once the NFLPA approved the process. That hasn't happened, in part because the NFLPA says it needs more information about the test itself.

No matter what, players will face additional testing if the deal is ratified. According to the memo, beginning in the 2012-13 season, players can be tested up to two times during the off-

season for steroids and performance-enhancing drugs only. They would not be screened for drugs such as marijuana.

Previously, the NBA did not test players during its July-September offseason. The memo said a majority of players will be tested no more than four times throughout an entire year, and that no tests could be given at the arena on the night of a game.

Players began voting electronically on the deal Wednesday night and could vote through Thursday afternoon, when owners will hold a meeting in New York to vote. If the deal is ratified by a majority on both sides, the NBA fully reopens for business Friday with the beginning of training camps and free agency.

Owners and players reached a tentative agreement on the main issues Nov. 26, and owners soon after opened up the arenas so players could begin workouts without coaches present. In the meantime, lawyers for both sides continued to negotiate a lengthy list of "B-list" items right into Wednesday.

Among the items agreed upon, per Hunter's memo:

■ A joint NBA-NBPA committee will discuss the age limit, which for now remains 19 years and one year out of high school.

■ Players with 3 years of service or less may be assigned to the NBA Development League, with no limit on the number of assignments. No player with more than three years of service may be

assigned to the D-League without his consent.

■ There will be a neutral review of any fines imposed by NBA Commissioner David Stern for players' on-court actions.

■ Upon request, a player will wear a microphone for one nationally televised game per month, one locally televised game per month and up to two playoff games per round. The player must consent before the

content can be aired live and can't be subject to discipline for content captured as a result of wearing a microphone.

■ Neither the league nor a team may discipline a player solely based upon an arrest.

The division of basketball-related income and numerous issues related to the salary cap system were the biggest obstacles to reaching an agreement. Players were guaranteed 57 percent

of BRI in the old deal but will receive 51.15 percent this season and will earn between 49 and 51 percent during the remainder of the deal.

In giving up the guarantee, transferring about \$250 million per year to owners, players were able to maintain the current soft salary cap system that allows teams to use exceptions to exceed the cap, rather than the hard cap the owners sought.

"Although the players made significant financial concessions, including taking a reduced share of Basketball Related Income, collective salaries will nonetheless increase over the course of the CBA, the players retained important system issues, and achieved gains on non-economic issues," Hunter wrote in the memo.

If the agreement is ratified, a 66-game schedule will begin on Christmas. Players will receive a prorated portion of their 2011-12 salaries.

## NBA BRIEFS

### Report: Spurs elect to use amnesty clause On Richard Jefferson

The San Antonio Spurs have elected to use the amnesty clause on their contract with Richard Jefferson, according to Adrian Wojnarowski of Yahoo! Sports. Jefferson has three-years and \$30 million remaining on his contract, which will now be eliminated from the San Antonio Spurs' salary cap. Under the new collective bargaining agreement agreed upon by the owners and players earlier this month, teams are allowed to waive one player from their team and remove that contract from their salary cap. Team's will now soon be allowed to place bids on Jefferson during the amnesty waiver process. Wojnarowski reports that the Spurs will now attempt to find a small forward which will allow them to use their mid-level exception of \$5 million per year. Jefferson, 30, averaged 11 points

and 1.3 assists per game for the Spurs in 81 games last season. ([www.si.com](http://www.si.com))

### Tracy McGrady agrees to one-year deal with Atlanta Hawks

Tracy McGrady has agreed to a one-year deal with the Atlanta Hawks, a source has told ESPN.com. McGrady, 32, will sign for the NBA veteran-minimum. The former seven-time All-Star will join his sixth team in the Hawks, and will attempt to resurrect a career that has been derailed by a series of injuries. Last season coming off the bench for the Detroit Pistons, McGrady averaged 8 points and 3.5 assists per game. In 2002-03 and 2003-04, McGrady led the league in scoring in back-to-back seasons. The one-time prolific scorer however has failed to average more than 8.2 points per game since the 2009-10 season, however, when he split time between the

Houston Rockets and the New York Knicks. McGrady has finished in the top-10 in MVP voting six times in his career, and was named the NBA Most Improved Player in 2000-01. ([www.si.com](http://www.si.com))

### Report: Jason Kapono to sign with Lakers

The Los Angeles Lakers will be adding veteran three-point shooter Jason Kapono as soon as player signings are allowed by the league, according to Adrian Wojnarowski of Yahoo! Sports—and, also according to Wojnarowski, that will happen at 2:00 E.T. on Friday. Kapono played in just 24 games last season, and only 57 in 2009-10, and his 3-point percentage dipped precipitously in both of those campaigns. In fact, Kapono took just 8 3-pointers in 2010-11 and made just 1. Despite the recent downturn, his career 3-point shooting

average is 43.7 percent, and he could potentially fill a need in Los Angeles. ([www.si.com](http://www.si.com))

### Report: Roger Mason, Jr. to sign with Washington Wizards

The Washington Wizards will be debuting a new-look uniform when the NBA season finally starts, but they'll have one of their former players back on the roster to wear it. According to Michael Lee of the Washington Post, Roger Mason, Jr. will sign with the Wizards when free agency officially begins on Friday. Mason is a D.C. native who spent two seasons with the Wizards from 2006 to 2008 before signing a two-year deal with the San Antonio Spurs. He returns to the Wizards as a veteran leader, and will be one of just two players on the roster over the age of 30 when he signs on Friday. ([www.si.com](http://www.si.com))

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# Chalan Kiya slips past San Roque

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Chalan Kiya/Loving Hands notched its fourth win in five games after eking out a 74-69 victory over San Roque/Morales in the 2011 MDX Amateur Radio Club Inter-Village Friendship League last Sunday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Jason Bahillo got an offensive rebound and made a putback to move Chalan Kiya to solo third place in Pool B of the 18-team village league behind the unde-

feated San Vicente/Saints (3-0) and As Lito/Chow Queen (2-0). San Roque dropped to fourth place with its 3-2 card.

Before Bahillo's crucial rebound and basket, Chalan Kiya was holding a precarious two-point lead, 71-69, with Amor Zapata getting ready for a pair of charities, 11 seconds left in the match. Zapata drilled the first free throw, but missed the second. In the rebound play, a San Roque player jumped too early, while Bahillo was just in time for the offensive board and didn't bother to bring the ball

down before making a basket that gave Chalan Kiya a five-point lead, six seconds remaining on the clock. San Roque fumbled in the ensuing play and time expired.

San Roque and Chalan Kiya had a neck-and-neck battle from start to finish with San Roque having the edge in the end after hitting five free throws in the homestretch.

The first two came from Jeff Bahillo, giving Chalan Kiya the lead, 69-67. San Roque missed on the other end, while Dante Tabora collared the offensive

board and drew a foul. Tabora canned both charities, upping the lead to four, 71-67, with 23 seconds left in the game.

San Roque drilled a quick two-pointer off Gilbert Miranda's layup to remain afloat and then gave up a foul on Zapata to stop the clock. The ploy seemed to work for San Roque, as Zapata split his charities, but in the end Chalan Kiya got the break with Jason Bahillo's offensive rebound.

## San Antonio 94, Chalan Laulau 49

In the first game, San Antonio/Gene's Barber cruised past Chalan Laulau/AON Insurance.

Moon Bin Hong and Gwan Byung Hong nailed the two other goals for MP United A, while T.J. Gurung was the lone Matansa player to score in the playoff match.

## PAIRE

From Page 32

before the game ended. MP United A and Matansa

were supposed to play in the first game last Sunday, but the match was rescheduled to last Tuesday.

Despite the several days off the pitch, MP United A was

still on target, particularly Dae Min Jeon, who had a hat-trick against Matansa. Jeon scored in the 15th minute and added back-to-back goals in the second half (85th and 90th).



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San Antonio now has a 4-1 record for a share of first place with Garapan/JHEM'S in Pool A, while Chalan Laulau fell to

an even 2-2 card. A 29-4 start was all San Antonio needed to break the game wide open en route to a 45-point victory.

## SSC

From Page 32

"SSC will miss them and I wish them well in Indonesia, where I served my Peace Corps service in 1964. I hope Grace and Andrew are able to continue their competitive swimming. I would also like to thank Dan for helping with the Tagaman and XTERRA triathlons for the past several years. Both Lisa and Dan played an important role in promoting many of the islands sporting events. I am wishing the entire family success and happiness in their new assignments in Indonesia," Sakovich added.

SSC and its members also expressed their gratitude to the Kimballs in a press statement sent to Saipan Tribune.

"Farewell, thank you, domo arigato and si yu'us ma'ase to Lisa and her family. Her efforts and contributions to the Saipan Swim Club have been paramount. Her fellowship and guidance with SSC will be

missed. Her children, Andrew and Grace will also be missed. They have been model swim ambassadors for the CNMI," the statement said.

"It is such a bummer that this great family is leaving Saipan. SSC is losing two of its best swimmers who have worked very hard over the years to excel. Lisa has dedicated many hours to the SSC. You would often see her during the hot noon hours teaching an adult to swim and then she would return in the middle of the afternoon to coach the little children. Saipan is losing a wonderful family who has volunteered so much to the athletic community on the island. I wish them luck in their new adventure," SSC masters swimmer Suzy Kindel said.

With Lisa vacating a coach post on SSC, pro triathlete Miek Carey will return to the club as assistant coach, while CNMI Hall of Famer Mike Villagomez will remain as the head coach. Twenty-year SSC member Gary Guzman will also coach for SSC and will be in charge of intermediate level swimmers.

## KONFLIKT

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36-27 at the break, as Pelisamen added 10 more points in the second quarter.

Konflikt's Elmer Esdrelon was contained to just eight points in the first half, as the GBL frontrunners got off to a slow start offensively.

Konflikt battled back however in the third period and made it a two-possession game, 48-52, heading into the final canto. Six different players teamed up in the rally, while Tony Diaz kept the Ol'Aces in the driver's seat with his 10 points.

Konflikt buried a pair of early three-pointers in the fourth quar-

ter to continue its recovery until it eventually stole the lead before rain came and rescheduled the match. Pelisamen missed the resumption of the game, but still led all scorers with his 27 points. Esdrelon turned in 20 points to pace Konflikt.

Meanwhile, the second game last Wednesday between Mobil and the Ol'Aces was rained-out in the second quarter.

**IT&E Konflikt 75** – Esdrelon 20, Devero 14, Sablan 13, Joyner 12, Berline 8, Abuel 7, Barrios 1.

**Ol'Aces 70** – Pelisamen 27, T. Diaz 24, White 8, Camacho 5, Iginoef 2, Z. Diaz 2, Kenty 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 12-16, 27-36, 48-52, 75-70.

## BIKE

From Page 32

composed of Steve Nutting, John Jones, Jim Arenovski, and Mark Blackburn made it to the finish line in San Antonio at the 4:53:47.91 mark.

Budoy, which was anchored by Rod Reyes and had Edgar Abalos, Rex Vea, and finisher James Abuy as members, was the second 4-person team to cross the finish line and first in the mountain bike category. Abuy reached San Antonio before 11am and his team had an official time of 4:22:04.75.

Budoy prevailed in the men's mountain bike relay division against Team Wildebeest (4:49:09.02) and Doco Mofos (5:04:53.97).

In the mixed division, Joan Salazar, Larry Malig, Enrique Suba, and Edgar Genobaten of H&R Block submitted 4:25:42.25 to finish ahead of Team Golds (4:40:59.66) and the team led by

Father Ryan Jimenez.

In the Team 200, which was for squads with combined age of 200, the Heart Throbs won with a time of 5:31:01.78. The champion squad is composed of Randy Harper, James Hofschneider, Richard Pierce, and Jerry Facey.

In the two-person mountain bike race, Ricky Melchor and Nelson Pagaduan teamed up to win the men's division with the field's best time of 3:51:00.91. In the mixed relay mountain bike division, Amy Sletten and Christopher Tenorio won after completing the race under five hours (4:59:21.78), while husband and wife Tim and Tina Goodwin took the top prize in the road bike category after timing in at 4:10:31.12.

In the women's division (road), Angie Mister joined forces with Heather Kennedy and they combined for 4:19:29.75 to claim first place, while Fred Camacho and Alex Gozon ruled the men's division.



# 5th Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament

PHOTOS by ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Shirley's Badminton Club's Sam Jones receives a serve.



TAGA's Shirley Kim goes for a volley during an elimination round game in the 5th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament.



Golden Racquet's Lupe Sabino serves.



Shirley's Badminton Club's Dick Guintu stretches for a return.



Saipan Badminton Club's Heo In Sook gets ready to serve.



Golden Racquet's Jen Savellano hits a volley.



The Berks Blazers' Ferdie Arago chases a drop shot.



The Berks Blazers' Marlene Peraja steps in for a return.



Shirley's Badminton Club's Toshiko Obata makes a return from the backline.



The Berks Blazers' Lani Bartolome goes for a smash.



**Sandusky  
jailed on new  
child sex  
abuse charges**  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Buehrle joins  
free-agent  
Marlins  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Paire, MP United A enter Final Four



Paire FC goalie Daniel Stafford kicks the ball during the first half of their playoff game against SKY FC in the men's FA Cup last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**P**aire FC and MP United A kept their championship hopes in the 2011 NMIFA Men's FA Cup alive after posting separate playoff wins at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Paire eliminated SKY FC, 4-1, last Sunday to advance to the semifinals against the undefeated Wild Bill's. MP United A downed Matansa FC, 5-1, in the other playoff pairing played last Tuesday, moving the former to a semis play date versus Inter Godfather's.

The semis matches will be played this Sunday with Wild Bill's and Paire collid-

ing at 12pm and Inter Godfather's dueling MP United A at 3pm. Winners of the two weekend matches will battle for the championship on Dec. 18.

Paire remained in contention for the championship after drawing goals from four different players. Zhi Peng Lin started things out for Paire with his goal right into the ninth minute of the first half. Paire



made it a 2-0 game when Risty Vergara scored in the 25 minute.

It took a while for SKY FC to light up the scoreboard, as Guang Lin Li only found the back of the net in the 33rd minute, moving his team within one at halftime, 1-2.

However, that was the only time SKY FC scored, as Paire neutralized the opposing team's attackers and then added two more goals in the second half for a convincing win. Steve McKagan had one of Paire's two goals in the second half making it in the 46th minute, while Conor McMahon hit the other one six minutes

**See PAIRE on Page 30**

## Konflikt keeps unbeaten record

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



IT&E Konflikt is still flawless after securing a 75-70 victory over the Ol'Aces in the 2011 Garapan Basketball League IT&E Cup last Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Konflikt and the Ol'Aces played only the continuation of their rained-out game with the former picking up where it left off to improve to a perfect 5-0 record. Konflikt was ahead, 68-66, with over three minutes left in regulation when rain caused the suspension of Monday night's match.

Jawn Joyner, Dave Sablan, and Elmer Esdreton scored for Konflikt when the game resumed to eke out a five-point victory. Tony Diaz made a triple for the Ol'Aces, who got their fourth point off a free throw.

The Ol'Aces led the match for the majority of the first three quarters before suffering a sudden meltdown in the closing minutes of the third. Konflikt drilled three free throws before it rained to grab the upper hand, 68-66.

When the match resumed last Wednesday, Joyner scored



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

IT&E Konflikt's Jawn Joyner pulls up for a shot against the Ol'Aces' Zach Diaz during the resumption of their rained-out game last Wednesday night in the GBL caging at the Garapan Basketball Court.

the first basket, giving Konflikt the much-needed momentum to steal the win. The Ol'Aces muffed their chances to regain the lead when their shooters came out cold in the moment of truth.

Back on last Monday's game, the Ol'Aces jumped to an early 16-12 lead behind the eight points of Freddie Pelisamen. The Ol'Aces then stretched the margin to

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## Bike Pro, Budoy top 'Hell' relays

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Bike Pro and Budoy led the relay winners in last Saturday's 5th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.

Bike Pro came out as the first 4-person team to finish the 100-kilometer race after timing in 4:01:23.53. The quartet is composed of brothers Romeo and Ronald Lanuza, Regina Sebial, and Bernard Laborce and won the

4-person mixed relay in the road bike division.

Other road bike top placers were 3-Men Team, and Team Manatee.

The 3-Men Team had Kai-sei Toda, Mike Pai, and Brad Ruszala as members, and they completed the around the island race in 4:23:46.18 to beat Team 757 (4:57:27.18) and Jayelin Team (5:10:53.25) in the men's division.

Team Manatee, which is

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## SSC thanks Kimballs for contributions to swimming

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The CNMI swimming community is losing a pillar in the Kimball family, who will be leaving Saipan early next year after getting involved with the Saipan Swim Club for eight fruitful years.

The Kimballs—husband and wife Dan and Lisa and their children Grace and Andrew—are heading to Indonesia after Dan received a job offer from the south east Asian nation.

"It has been a great experience living on Saipan for eight years. We enjoyed our time here and we wished we could stay, but we can't as Dan got a job offer from Indonesia," Lisa said in a telephone interview with



From left, Lisa, Andrew, and Grace Kimball pose for a group photo at the Kilili Beach Park while waiting for the completion of last Wednesday's 2011 Saipan Swim Club Jingle Bell Fun Run.

*Saipan Tribune.*

The Kimballs arrived on Saipan from New York in August 2003 after Dan landed a job with the Far East Broadcasting Company. Grace was eight

years old then, while Andrew was six and from 2003 to 2011, the Kimball siblings became frequent participants of swimming competitions at the pool and in open water. Grace represented

the CNMI in the world championships in China this year and in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, while Andrew also joined last year's Micro Games. Lisa was in charge of administrative duties with SSC, organizing competitions, and also coached the club's swimmers, while Dan volunteered as timer and photographer for SSC.

"Lisa was a pillar for the Saipan Swim Club, and when we left, she kept the team going. She did have able assistance, but the organization of events and maintenance of team records are also important, and thanks to Lisa, these are accomplished. She later also played a major role in coaching and development of the younger swimmers," SSC founder Bill Sakovich.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of Budoy pose with their medals after winning the men's 4-person relay race (mountain bike division) in last Saturday's 5th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.